Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Havana Refutes Soviet Newspapers' Accusations *[Havana TV]* 1
Further Reaction to Soviet Articles *[Havana TV]* 1
Dailies Publish 'Version' of Castro Award Speech *[Havana TV]* 1
Great Efforts To Face Difficulties *[Havana TV]* 2
'Most Difficult Times' of Revolution *[Havana TV]* 2
Energy Saving Measures in Cienfuegos Noted *[Havana Radio]* 3
Rodriguez Meets With UNHCR, UNDP Officials *[Havana Radio]* 3
Minister Malmierca Meets With UNHCR Official *[Havana Radio]* 3
Delegation Meets With Namibia's President Nujoma *[Havana Radio]* 3
Cooperation Talks With Congo Delegation Begin *[Havana Radio]* 4
* Job Changes, Dissatisfaction Discussed *[BOHEMIA 27 Jul]* 4

Antigua and Barbuda

UNDP Calls for Elections as Soon as Possible *[CANA]* 7

Barbados

Opposition Wants Environment Ministry Established *[CANA]* 7

Dominican Republic

Legality of 60 Percent Salary Increase Defended *[Santo Domingo Radio]* 8
Conflict Over Salary Resolution Noted *[Santo Domingo Radio]* 8
President Appoints New Army Commander *Santo Domingo Radio]* 8

Haiti

State Council Member Interviewed in Jacmel *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8
CEP Member Interviewed on Call for Contributions *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 9

Jamaica

Deregulation of Foreign Exchange Market Announced *[CANA]* 9

Trinidad and Tobago

Press Speculates on Possible Cabinet Reshuffle *[CANA]* 10

MEXICO

Government Seeks Return of Citizens From Iraq *[Mexico City TV]* 11
* Television Panel Discusses Trade Agreement *[NEXOS Jul]* 11

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Presidency Vice Ministers Give News Conference *[San Salvador Radio]* 15
Labor Leader on Request To Suspend Foreign Aid *[DIARIO LATINO 10 Sep]* 17

Honduras

Callejas Deplores Iraqi Free Oil Offer *[Tegucigalpa Radio]* 18

Nicaragua

Chamorro Said Unable To Control Humberto Ortega *[Managua Radio]* 19
Deputy Minister Leal Views Security Commission *[Managua Radio]* 19

Panama

Government Announces Retirement of 142 Officers *[Panama City Radio]* 20
Retiring Officers, New Leadership Listed *[Panama City TV]* 20
Endara on Gas Price Increase, Electoral Tribunal *[Panama City TV]* 22
Labor Party Communique; 15 Sep Meeting Called *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 10 Sep]* 22
Gilberto Guardia Confirmed as PCC Administrator *[Panama City TV]* 23

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Minister's Comments 'Concern' Italian Government *[DYN]* 24
President Menem Greets Chilean Counterpart *[DYN]* 24
Telephone Workers Lift 10-Day Strike *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 24
Illegal Operation of Television Channels Reported *[TELAM]* 24

Bolivia

Papers React to U.S. Report on Corruption *[EL DIARIO 4, 5 Sep]* 25
Air Force Lacks Funds To Buy Arms, Equipment *[La Paz TV]* 25
Cocaine Reportedly Bartered for Arms *[Buenos Aires DYN]* 25
Coca Plantations Threaten Forest Reserves *[PRESENCIA 6 Sep]* 26
January-August Accumulated Inflation Reported *[PRESENCIA 4 Sep]* 26

Brazil

Collor To Send Personal Message to Husayn *[Madrid EFE]* 26
3 Women Granted Visas To Leave *[Brasilia Radio]* 26
Firm Agrees to Iraqi Terms *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 27

Chile

Pinochet To Repeat Coup if Circumstances Reoccur *[Madrid EFE]* 27
Interior Minister Views Remarks *[Santiago Radio]* 27
Disarmament Group Holds Rally at U.S. Embassy *[Santiago Radio]* 27
Iraq Allegedly Withholding Seven Citizens *[Santiago Radio]* 28
Aylwin Sends Message on Return From Antarctic *[Santiago Radio]* 28
Consultation Agreement With USSR Signed *[EL MERCURIO 6 Sep]* 28
Four Bombs Explode; One Bomb Deactivated *[Santiago Radio]* 29
Trade Balance Position to August Reported *[Madrid EFE]* 29
* Errazuriz Seen as Challenge to Center-Right *[ERCILLA 1 Aug]* 29
* UDI Deputy on Human Rights, Opposition *[EL MERCURIO 5 Aug]* 31

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Explains Foreign Policy *[HOY 12 Sep]* 35
Appointments at Foreign Ministry Reported *[HOY 11 Sep]* 36

Peru

Fujimori Receives PRC Foreign Minister *[Lima TV]* 36
PRC Foreign Minister on Gulf Issue *[Madrid EFE]* 36
Prime Minister Hurtado Leaves for Argentina *[Lima TV]* 37
Bank Employees, Police Clash; Arrests in Lima *[Buenos Aires DYN]* 37
Government Reduces Prices on Oil By-Products *[EXPRESO 30 Aug]* 37

Guyana

Opposition Holds Demonstration for Reform *[CANA]* 38

Havana Refutes Soviet Newspapers' Accusations

FL1209131790 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] On page six of its third edition, GRANMA published an article today written by journalist Felix Pita Astudillo which refutes the false accusations concerning our country written by Soviet journalists in IZVESTIYA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. The article written by the Cuban journalist is entitled: "The Truth Concerning Delivery of Fuels" and explains with numerous data the falsehoods contained in the articles written by these Soviet newspaper correspondents in Havana concerning the supply of fuels and other products.

GRANMA describes the tone of the article written by the Soviet journalists as an insidious insinuation on their part regarding our government's official declarations on the difficulties the country is now undergoing and on the trade behavior between Cuba and the Soviet Union. The GRANMA article goes on to say that Cubans are not ingrates and that we are capable of appreciating our friends, but it should not be overlooked that Cuba has earned that solidarity.

Hence, this article from IZVESTIYA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA is offensive in nature and unacceptable to the Cuban people.

Further Reaction to Soviet Articles

FL1309010090 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] To write and reflect things objectively, one must first be familiar with them. This is stated in an article by journalist Felix Pita Astudillo published in today's third edition of GRANMA. This idea, recently expressed by the Soviet ambassador to Cuba, has again come to the fore, the article says, thanks to the work of the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA correspondents in Havana, Novikov and Kamorin, concerning the special measures announced by the Cuban Government.

The Cuban note set the total shortfall in deliveries so far this year at almost two million tons of petroleum and petroleum derivatives. It noted the Soviet Government's efforts to avoid these problems, and stressed Cuba's efforts to fulfill its export commitments. Pita Astudillo's article continues by saying that these Soviet correspondents' versions of the facts cast doubt upon the veracity of the official Cuban report. It states that Cuba's official calculations were based on an almost proportional distribution by quarter in accordance with the traditional practice used in bilateral trade.

With abundant, precise figures, the article sets forth the major details of trade with the USSR from the end of 1989 to the present. These include not only Soviet oil deliveries to Cuba, but also the deliveries to the USSR of products such as sugar and nickel that are traditional Cuban exports to the USSR. These figures show the falseness of the insinuations made by the IZVESTIYA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondents.

One of them suggests that either the oil delivered by the USSR has been resold, or the Cuban Government has decided to create reserves of raw materials. I have the impression, Pita Astudillo says, that for this guess they disregarded causes and contexts. The profound ties of friendship with the Soviet Government, party, and people rule out these sinister intrigues.

Regarding the grain situation, the item published today on the last page of GRANMA says that the problems the USSR is facing in delivering various basic products to us are completely public. It adds elsewhere that these variations in deliveries justify the continuation of the January measures to create a minimum reserve of grain with which to face any contingency. It then adds that it would be nice if we could form similar reserves with other raw materials, including oil.

We Cubans are not ingrates, the journalist asserts. We are capable of appreciating our friends, but it cannot be overlooked that Cuba has earned this solidarity with sustained combat in extremely difficult circumstances for more than 30 years. Hence the offensive and unacceptable nature of the articles in IZVESTIYA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA for the Cuban people. We can by no means accept juggling with figures, which would also make it seem that Cuba plays with lies and behaves like a swindler.

Finally, Pita Astudillo's article recalls that we are aware of the Soviet leadership's sincere desire to find a solution to these problems, just as Moscow knows about Cuba's efforts to fulfill our commitments to the Soviets. And although one swallow does not make a summer, the IZVESTIYA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondents have no right to poison a climate of relations between Cuba and the USSR that has been forged over the course of 30 years. At least, they do not have that right without an acceptable response.

Dailies Publish 'Version' of Castro Award Speech

FL1209113890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The national press today publishes a version of the speech given by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro at the ceremony in which he received the medal and diploma conferring on him an honorary doctorate from the San Marcos University of Higher Education in Lima, Peru.

In his remarks, Fidel said that our people plan to confront all difficulties, no matter how big they are, and that we do not know if we will have 20, 30, or 40 percent less oil next year.

Later, Fidel said we are preparing to make the necessary sacrifices but without sacrificing development. He asked himself what price could be placed on things in a

capitalist country under the circumstances in which we find ourselves when thousands of people would be unemployed or would take to the streets in protest.

It is possible that we will have to start anew in many areas, he said. It is possible that we will face hard times, which is what I call returning to the Sierra Maestra, figuratively speaking.

Fidel also said that when there are extra personnel, we will try to use them in indispensable activities and if we still have extra personnel, we will increase the citizen's free time.

Great Efforts To Face Difficulties

FL1209134190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1235 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Upon receiving in the Palace of the Revolution the insignias that accredit him with an honorary doctorate from the San Marcos University of Higher Education of Peru, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, expressed his appreciation for the Peruvian delegation's visit to our country to present him with the award.

I think that all comrades are able to appreciate the value of your gesture, especially considering the times in which we live, the commander in chief said.

After analyzing what is in store for Latin American economies which are burdened by a gigantic foreign debt in the hundreds of thousands dollars, Fidel added that Cuba today is making its greatest efforts to confront its difficulties and he cited as an example the case of agriculture, a sector that is implementing a true technological revolution which will double, and in some cases even triple, production per hectare.

The Cuban president stressed that we are currently more blockaded than before, especially now that economic relations with East European countries have practically disappeared. No one can guarantee the conditions under which we will receive oil in the future, he stressed, or what prices we will get for our products and at what prices others will sell their products to us. Added to these circumstances is the Arab-Persian Gulf crisis which has caused oil prices to almost double, the commander in chief said. He also reiterated that we will never be discouraged and that we are preparing to confront these difficulties, no matter how big they are, without having to sacrifice development. It is possible, he said, that we will have to start anew in many areas. It is possible that we will face hard times, which is what he calls returning to the Sierra Maestra, figuratively speaking. We are also preparing to mobilize the necessary forces where they will be most useful and, he said, if we have to make do with one-and-one-half or one ton of cement instead of 4 million tons, we will designate that ton to the areas that pertain to the country's development.

In this regard, Fidel said, when there are extra personnel, we will try to use them in indispensable activities and if we still have extra personnel, we will increase the citizen's free time so that he can rest, read, and improve himself, which is something a capitalist society cannot do.

'Most Difficult Times' of Revolution

FL1209200090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] [Announcer] We are going to show you moments of the speech delivered by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, after he received last Monday the medal conferring on him the honorary doctorate degree of the National University of San Marcos of Peru. [Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] This is the most important part of this ceremony for us. Allow me, on behalf of the National University of San Marcos and the Peruvian people, to bestow on you the medal conferring on you the honorary doctorate degree from our university. [applause] [vidoe shows the speaker placing the medal around Castro's neck]

[Castro] It has been necessary to take some time from the enormous amount of work we have been involved in during these last days to hold this informal meeting among us. It has not been possible to fulfill the traditional requirements and formalities. Although the rector referred to the solemnity of this event, which is true, we have not been able to even get the space and time to organize it with all the attributes an event such as this one deserves. We are not in an amphitheater.

I cannot forget either the fact that there was a possibility of having this degree presented at the San Marcos University when there was almost a possibility of visiting Peru. This was going to be a visit, even if it was a short one, so that I could meet with the Peruvian people. I would have liked very much to receive this degree there.

I also greatly appreciate the fact that you did not wait for the possibility of making that visit to hold this event. I appreciate even more the fact that you have visited our fatherland during these times and that you have come here to carry out the agreement reached by the university. I believe that all my comrades and I can appreciate the value of your gesture, especially if one takes into account the times in which we are living. They are difficult times for all. They are difficult times for the truly democratic ideas, they are difficult times for progressive ideas, for socialist ideas, for revolutionary ideas. Perhaps they are one of the most difficult times we have known in the last few decades, and undoubtedly the most difficult we have known since the triumph of the revolution in 1959.[end recording]

[Announcer] Finally, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro expressed his gratitude for the gesture made by the

National San Marcos University for visiting our country during these times. [Begin recording] [Castro] I know that the times are not only difficult for us. I think about you. I think about the rest of the Latin American countries and the problems that await them. I think about the San Marcos University. I imagine it must not be easy for such a prestigious university, for an institution that has played such an important role in the development of the political thought, in the development of the democratic thought, in the development of the revolutionary thought as the San Marcos University has.... [changes thought] I repeat, you have made an extraordinary gesture. I am going to say it even more clearly. One has to have a lot of courage to come to Cuba today. You have to be men of deep convictions. As we said before, in the middle of such confusion as there is today, in the middle of so much disinformation, the University of San Marcos with that courageous gesture, we could say, with that heroic gesture, is showing that this institution rises to its glorious centuries of history, that this institution deserves the recognition and prestige it enjoys in the heart of all the democratic, progressive, and revolutionary men in our hemisphere.

I know that you do not give out many honors, that you do not confer many honors. I know that to make this type of decision the consensus of professors and students is needed. We understand this clearly and we appreciate it immensely. I can also tell you that we will always be grateful for the confidence that you have had in us. I want to guarantee you the certainty that we will know how to deserve this honor.

I will conclude with one phrase, that we will never disappoint the University of San Marcos.[applause] [end recording]

Energy Saving Measures in Cienfuegos Noted

FL1209154690 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1408 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Among the measures adopted by the Sugar Industry Ministry in Cienfuegos aimed at reducing fuel consumption is the idling of 13 percent of the pool of gasoline-run equipment and 30 percent of the equipment that runs with oil. In this way, consumption will be reduced by 600 tons of gasoline and some 180 tons of oil in the remaining months of the year without having the ministry's various enterprises, shops, and sugar mills reduce their work activities. This is done by having a better and more extensive organization of transportation.

Almost 70 gasoline-run engines were replaced by oil-run in the Sil-130 trucks. This will be continued if more engines become available. There are eight areas in Cienfuegos that are suitable to pull cane with Kamaz trucks and double platform trailers during the sugar harvest months. If 83 of these type of trailers are used, almost 152 tons of oil can be saved.

Rodriguez Meets With UNHCR, UNDP Officials

FL1309021590 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, has met in Havana with Jorge Santiesteban Noriega, the regional representative for Mexico, Belize, and Cuba of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees [UNHCR]. The visitor explained the results of the just concluded meeting to discuss the serious problems affecting thousands of refugees throughout the world, and Cuba's position of solidarity since the start of its revolution was explained.

The meeting between Carlos Rafael and Jorge Santiesteban Noriega was held in the friendly climate that marks our country's relations with the UNHCR. (Joachim Bon Braumal), national coordinator of the United Nations Development Program [UNDP], also participated in the meeting, which took place in Havana.

Minister Malmierca Meets With UNHCR Official

FL1309014090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2306 GMT 12 Sep 90

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has met with Mr. Leonardo Franco, the Latin American representative of the UN High Commission on Refugees [UNHCR]. During their talk, Mr. Franco expressed his gratitude to our country for the care provided to thousands of refugees from Latin America, Asia, and Africa, and transmitted greetings from the UNHCR to Minister Malmierca.

Delegation Meets With Namibia's President Nujoma

FL1209204590 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1944 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Namibian President Sam Nujoma met today with the Cuban delegation to the ninth meeting of the Angola-Cuba-South Africa Joint Commission on Southwest Africa, which is being held in Windhoek. Nujoma talked with Division General Jesus Bermudez Cutino, a member of the Central Committee and vice interior minister, for almost two hours about the situation in southwest Africa. Bermudez Cutino brought a message for the Namibian president from Fidel.

At the meeting, Sam Nujoma and Division General Bermudez Cutino talked about the progress in Namibia since its independence six months ago, the internal situation in South Africa, and the continued internal intervention in Angola. The Namibian president thanked the Cuban delegation to the Joint Commission for our country's prompt response to a request for a medical brigade, which is to arrive in Namibia today.

Cooperation Talks With Congo Delegation Begin

FL1209201590 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1934 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The eighth session of the Cuba-Congo Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation began today in Havana, chaired by Congolese Foreign Minister Antoine Ndinga-Oba and Rodrigo Garcia, head of the State Committee for Finance. The cooperation between the two countries began in 1972 when sugar specialists arrived in the Congo, and later there were other specialists in the fields of health and agriculture. In 1978 the Joint Commission was created during President Joaquim Yhombi-Opango's visit to Cuba. The areas of cooperation are sugar, health, [words indistinct] and sports. Other types of cooperation include technical aid, training, and exchange of missions. The members of both delegations expressed satisfaction at this meeting, which will contribute to closer ties between Cuba and the Congo, as well as the development of trade relations and cooperation.

* Job Changes, Dissatisfaction Discussed

90CA0107A Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 27 Jul 90 pp 42-45

[Article by Caridad Carrobello]

[Text] In Holguin, I met a young man who immediately caught my attention because every morning he made two-hour trip by bicycle to get to his shop early. Since I was always in a race against the clock to get my report in on time to his factory, I noted who he was and we promised to meet again. I soon returned, but he was no longer working there. A similar thing happened to me with a young woman at the Cienfuegos CEN [State Committee for Standardization], who was forced to change jobs because she had children. I later learned that changing jobs is a serious problem in our country and decided to look into the causes of my chronic "losses."

I began by knocking on the office door of Roberto Labrada Avila, member of the UJC [Union of Young Communists] National Bureau in charge of labor issues for a dozen years and one of the persons most closely connected with workers' organizations in Cuba.

[Carrobello] In your opinion, what are the main reasons for job instability at the present time?

[Labrada Avila] The causes are linked together like a long chain. First, there is the tremendous guarantee of a job in our country, meaning that people can ask to be transferred from one place to another because they are sure of working somewhere else. I would rank this above many other factors because I know that a person living in Costa Rica, Panama, or Colombia and who has a secure job is not going to leave unless he is thrown out because you just cannot find another job that easily.

However, job changes by young people—and some not so young—are not just a fad or a mere desire for change. There are objective factors such as the distance from certain workplaces, difficulties working shifts in shops that run 24 hours a day and where I think we could revise and adapt certain schedules, problems with cultural advancement, low wages, and so on.

There are also subjective causes which unfortunately are not clear enough for some administrations. There are those who claim that what people care about is higher wages and better food, but I have seen cases where people earn 250 pesos and are still willing to go elsewhere for lower pay in exchange for improvements in things more important to them.

Carrying for people means first and foremost knowing the workers, taking the trouble to see how they live, sharing their concerns and helping to solve their problems, making the worker feel attached to his factory and his community, which is what happens with the contingents.

Feeling Important

These subjective causes of job instability include the low social recognition given to countless jobs. Family upbringing and specific social considerations cause very few to want to be farm workers, construction helpers, lathe operators, pin setters in rolling mills, or dock workers. I recall that I began working at Antillana Steel when my parents suggested that I be an engineer or doctor because they "wanted the best for their son." That idea has still not changed, even though being a clerk in a store is just as worthwhile and useful as being a surgeon.

Now we have another problem involving those who do not go on to the university. Young men refuse to be workers and want to become intermediate-level technicians, not for the pay, because some blue-collar jobs pay better, but because they think the general status is higher.

The UJC Study Center recently did research into reasons for the dissatisfaction and job instability of young textile workers. They chose five factories: Alquitex, Hilatex, Bellotex, Desembarco del Granma, and Celia Sanchez Manduley, all very representative in terms of the number of young people, rate of quitting and transfers, working conditions, and location.

We saw that poor vocational orientation is particularly acute in this field compared with others studied, such as SIME [Steelworking Industry] and oil. It is a curious to note that of the 1,164 persons polled, only 36 percent were proud of their work, while 40 percent said their relatives and friends do not consider it a good job, apparently the result of a certain negative image of the activity.

Economic and Social FActors

[Carrobello] Where is the problem of job instability the most critical?

[Labrada Avila] In agriculture, light industry, particularly textiles, the iron and steel and machine industry, certain enterprises of the Ministry of Construction, and the food industry. This is so in all provinces.

[Carrobello] How does this affect the country's economy?

[Labrada Avila] I do not have general figures on how it affects the country's economy, but I can tell you that if a company invests money to train a young person for a given job and he leaves, the gap he leaves behind is very great because money has to be spent to train and promote a new person.

The party is not indifferent to this. In a report to the Third Congress, views were expressed on the effect of such instability, but the public needs to be more aware of such things because, since our workers are currently insufficiently educated about economic matters, practically no one knows to what extent the decision to change jobs affects production.

So far we have spoken of changes from one job to another, but there is something which, although it is on a small scale, is even worse: individuals who leave their jobs because they do not like them and end up unemployed. Here the economy loses, but the matter also becomes a social problem. If this were a country where anyone falling sick had to pay high health care and hospital costs or where to go to a sporting event or museum one had to pay to get in, then the monetary pressure would cause one to go back to work, but here we have parents saying, in the face of such a situation, "No, my child, wait. I will take on the extra burden until you get what you want." This hurts the individual, who gets used to taking everything and giving little in return, and also protects a person who becomes a burden to society.

Solutions

[Carrobello] Do you think the measures being applied are adequate?

[Labrada Avila] Wages have improved in some places and efforts are being made to respond to problems such as housing and working conditions. The supply and quality of food served in worker cafeterias have improved, but I would still tell you that in the subjective area—and this cannot be solved by resolutions or decrees—those in charge of improving other aspects of human welfare are doing very little.

We still have the problem of standards for those starting out in agriculture, which are the same as for experienced workers, when they could be adapting and gradually increasing for new people along with the pay. Furthermore, there are few facilities for women with children. There is still discrimination when jobs are to be filled and we lose many, even though they are good workers and managers, because they do not have the proper response to problems that do have solutions and when they only need a little understanding.

The UJC must be closely involved in solving these problems because a large percentage of the labor force in Cuba is made up of young people (45.5 percent are of working age), but many ministries and organizations should also help more.

You know that the analysis of the problem in the textile industry led to a number of general recommendations. I can also refer you to other evaluations made with SIME and the oil workers. Finally, many studies have been made, but I think the most important thing now is to apply the results.

I am convinced that there is no need to invent anything new. Rather, we just have to begin to carry out what we know, for example, paying proper attention to young people when they first join the work force, giving workers meaningful participation in production assemblies, seeing that material as well as moral incentives become part of the rewards as well as guidelines to be followed.

Beginning in September, the UJC will test these concepts in a group of MINAGRI [Ministry of Agriculture] companies where problems exist. We shall make it a requirement in each of these enterprises located in the different provinces to do whatever is appropriate to prevent job changes.

[Carrobello] Don't you think you are taking a somewhat "romantic" approach to all the many and varied problems in agriculture?

[Labrada Avila] Not if we properly require responsibility, but we shall naturally drive out a lot of people.

I am convinced we shall reap many benefits. After all, gentlemen, this is what is done in other highly productive factories. We have the experience of the nearly 40 youth shifts working in sugar mills and Antillana Steel, which have turned into youth workshops and made great gains in job stability!

I invite you to come along and draw your own conclusions.

Alquitex: Solving Problems

Friday is the day when workers gather together at the site where discharges are processed. A psychologist talks with each of the cases and when there is no possibility of changing the decision, he writes down the most important aspects to send on to the administration and work place organizations. Evaluations are made and measures taken, but even so, 80 percent of all discharges here occur in the 17-32 age group. In June, 91 workers left the factory.

The causes? According to Pedro Jose Molerio, deputy director of human resources, the different shifts, distance for a substantial number of workers (although they have their own transportation from several set locations), and the possibility of working in the potato or

tobacco harvest or other agricultural jobs in the municipality of Alquizar, without the drawback of the night shift, all affect job changes.

The unsolved problems? Despite the effort to solve housing needs in the textile city, a large share of the nearly 3,200 Alquitex workers are in urgent need of their own homes. Even though they are paid for the abnormal working conditions and night shifts and while a series of experimental methods (six-hour days, on-the-spot payment for double shifts, seniority), spinning and weaving work is still very hard.

Not to mention the food! Beans, hocks, and carrot preserves or hocks, rice, and milk would be a typical menu.

Missing Activities

According to a study done by the UJC Research Center in several textile mills, "for many young people, this is exhausting work that keeps them from enjoying any recreation or entertainment and for which they receive no compensation whatsoever for their sacrifice, inasmuch as they are poorly paid in terms of the working conditions, among other things.

Weaver Orlando Amador Diaz confirms the fact: "Because of the schedules, I miss half the activities. Bands come to Alquizar on Saturdays and Sundays and I cannot go to the dances. Naturally, I cannot take off work for a party..."

In addition, Milaida Alvarez says she has "just about reached the point of asking to quit. There are problems with pay because of stoppages caused by a scarcity of folding machines or their need of repair. My husband, who was a weaver like me and who had nearly five years experience here, left for the very same reason. He is now working at Las Canas poultry farm. He does not make any more, but he has a set shift and is happier there."

Ivon Penalver's problem is related to her family. "I have a two-year-old son. My schedule often keeps me from taking care of him. My mother gives him his bath, puts him to bed, and often takes care of him. I am afraid this lack of contact with him will diminish his love for me."

An imminent change in technology in the months ahead will undoubtedly help eliminate some problems with job stability at Alquitex. However, the eradication of others will depend on the effort of officials to evaluate what I read in reports as causes for quitting: "I am leaving because they will not let me switch from one shop to another," or "I am leaving because who will defend the workers if the union, administration, and the party where we work are all the same?"

Wages Not Everything

Enterprises belonging to the Antillana Steel Metallurgical Union offer special wage conditions. Seniority on the job is rewarded after three years, at which point 45 pesos are paid per shift, plus a bonus of 10 percent for working in metallurgy.

Production performance can also increase pay, with bonuses, recruitment bonuses, special pay for abnormal working conditions, and when, for example, a ten-man crew efficiently does the work of 12, the extra pay is distributed based on various conditions. The most difficult jobs commonly pay 600 pesos or more a month.

In addition, Antillana Steel has guarantees that very few jobs in the country can offer: a social club, office of tourism where one can reserve a table at the Copa, a hotel on Guantanamo or a cabin at Jibacoa Beach, health care clinics, gymnasium, food allowance, its own bakery, guaranteed scholarships for workers based on their shift, and the allocation of 200 housing units a year. And yet, there are still job changes.

On this topic, Osquel Alfonso, one of the founders of Antillana, observes: "I have seen people come and go for 30 years and I think the ones who leave do so, if not for some overriding reason, because they cannot stand the heat or do not like to work at night, have no family responsibilities or do not realize how much they can contribute to the country's economy by virtue of their efforts."

For his part, UJC committee secretary Raul Castaneda thinks if 70 percent of the workers here are young, then we must implement measures to test their capacity. One positive experiment is youth shifts. Compared with 230 resignations in a previous six-month period, the figure is down to 95 percent for the same period and the figure is expected to drop even further.

Marvelous Work

If the Devil were to choose a job suited to his taste, I am sure he would not hesitate to pick something in a rolling mill, where the heat is truly infernal. And yet, I have talked with a group of young people who, paradoxically enough, think it is marvelous work. They are members of the first youth shift set up in the country.

"Better pay was basically what caused me to move from the Conrado Pina tire enterprise," confessed Alfredo Nunez, "because I have two kids to worry about. After that, however, I kept on working under very difficult conditions for a very powerful reason: the human qualities of this collective enterprise.

"The youth shift shares many common interests because of their similarity in age: Any problem I might have everyone else has had. No one leans on anyone else at work because everyone is in the same boat and our fundamental goal is production."

For his part, Santiago Montesinos explains: "Belonging to a youth shift has helped me like my work better. For three years, we were the most outstanding workers in the shop and that is my greatest source of pride."

Antigua and Barbuda

UNDP Calls for Elections as Soon as Possible

FL1209181290 Bridgetown CANA in English 1645 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Report by Colin James]

[Excerpts] St. John's, Antigua, Sept 12, CANA—Political leader of the opposition United National Democratic Party [UNDP], Dr. Ivor Heath, wants general elections "as soon as possible." Heath made his comments against the backdrop of an investigation of a transshipment of Israeli guns and ammunition from St. John's to Colombian drug traffickers last year. He said Antigua was in a state of "uncertainty" and the people should be given an opportunity to determine what course they want to take.

"There is a feeling of uncertainty, to my mind, in the country at the present moment. The ALP (ruling Antigua Labour Party) machinery is in disarray and the government is no longer going to operate as a unified force," Heath said.

He added, "there are moves afoot to re-aligned elements within the ALP.

"The UNDP feels that general elections should be called as soon as possible. This is the only way the people will be able to show their reaction to the events that have taken place over the last few months.

"We feel that the government that takes over this country must not only have the confidence of the people but must also have the ability and the drive to rebuild all the basic institutions of the government which are seen at present to be completely corrupt and nonfunctional," the UNDP leader asserted. [passage omitted]

Heath said the elections should be preceded by electoral reforms.

Barbados

Opposition Wants Environment Ministry Established

FL1209153190 Bridgetown CANA in English 1500 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Sept 12, CANA—Opposition parties in Barbados want an Environment Ministry and more laws to deal with problems such as the disposal of hazardous waste. They talk emotionally of a need for banning leaded gasolene and for beefing up laws to keep the island's air and water supplies safe.

The focus on the environment came during a symposium organised by the Barbados Environmental Association (BEA). Representatives of the ruling Democratic Labour Party (DLP), the main opposition National Democratic Party (NDP), and the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) participated.

Minister of employment, labour relations, and community development, Keith Simmons, said that the government had established the National Conservation Strategies (NCS) last March, as a means of having an organised framework under which it will tackle matters related to the environment. But the opposition parties say the failure to have a separate ministry to deal with the environment shows that the government does not give environmental matters the priority they deserve.

"The NDP has already committed itself to the establishment of a Ministry of the Environment should this party be given the honour and the privilege of forming the next government in this country," said Vere Brathwaite, the NDC's shadow minister of the environment.

Aaron Truss, the BLP's spokesman on environmental matters, said that on assuming office in 1986, the DLP government immediately dissolved the Ministry of the Environment set up by the BLP.

"Environment did not appear to be a major factor," Truss said, adding that only on occasions such as World Health Day did the government speak publicly about the problems of the environment.

"Has the present administration any plans.... to deal with the issue?" Truss asked. "It is imperative that a Ministry of Environment be established immediately."

But Simmons asserts that the government now has three ministries to deal with the environment and a bigger staff. All three political parties admit that there is need to educate and sensitise Barbadians about the dangers of damaging the environment.

"If our programmes and policies are to succeed, then the general public must respect the environment," said Simmons.

"The move towards education.... is important and must be an ongoing process....," said Ms. Brathwaite. "The 1990's present to us the challenge of educating Barbadians about the value of our heritage and the resultant duty of each citizen to guard it jealously...."

"We must engage in an ongoing programme of education.... Protection of the environment is important, but management is vital," BLP's Truss noted.

The two opposition parties say that should they form the next government, an immediate task will be to pass laws to ensure that development of the island does not mean accelerated environmental damage. They reported that the proposed legislation will cover the disposal of hazardous waste and the protection of coastal zones as well as water and air.

"The people have a right to know how safe is the air they breathe, the water they drink....," said Truss.

The NDP wants laws aimed at a more complete burning of gasolene hydrocarbons. The party said an NDP government would ensure that only unleaded gasolene was be sold here.

"Furthermore, the transportation of the lead to be added in the blending of gasolene here in Barbados also raises grave concerns as this lead travels through Bridgetown in unmarked, enescorted, open [word indistinct] flat-bedded vehicles without any proper preventative or corrective emergency measures in place in case of a spill or accident," Ms. Brathwaite complained.

The three political parties have all pledged a programme of reforestation.

Dominican Republic

Legality of 60 Percent Salary Increase Defended

FL1209180390 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The director general of the National Salaries Committee and the legal consultant of the Labor Secretariat have defended the legal nature of the resolution issued on 7 September in which an across-the-board salary increase for private sector employees is established, among other things. At the same time, Dr. Luis Bolivar de Pena, legal consultant of the Labor Secretariat, said if a sector does not agree with the measure, all it has to do is submit an appeal 15 days after the measure is officially published. The director of the National Salaries Committee, Navy Captain Ramon Abreu Rodriguez, retired, noted that the 60 percent across-the-board salary increase issued by the tripartite organization is not limited to the minimum salary.

Conflict Over Salary Resolution Noted

FL1209184390 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Sep 90

["Today's Subject: The Salary Increase Problem"]

[Text] It truly appears—notice that we use the word appears—that there is a legal conflict in the resolution that establishes a 60-percent increase to all private sector minimum salaries. It is true that the Constitution and the Labor Code only authorize the National Salaries Committee to establish minimum salaries. It is clear that the Constitution and the Labor Code do not authorize the National Salaries Committee to establish across-the-board salary increases.

However, we ask ourselves, when those who wrote the Constitution and the legislators state that the Salaries Committee can only establish minimum salaries, are they referring to the minimum salary that the enterprise will pay all their employees or to the minimum salary each employee or salary earner will make in his area of work, his occupation, and level?

We understand that the Constitution and Labor Code documents are referring to the latter. What the Salaries Committee has done is to establish minimum salaries for all employees, officials, servants, salary earners, etc. of the private enterprise. That is, for messengers, drivers, regular laborers, specialized laborers, middle and high-level technicians, professionals, executives, etc.

The inflationary spiral has hit everyone without mercy. As it is logical, the resolution intends to benefit everyone, the ones that are being hit by inflation.

In sum, the resolution is incomplete, somewhat confusing, and unselective. There cannot and should not be confusion, omissions, or generalizations in the setting of minimum salaries. These things could discriminate against the realities of each case and each sector. It is as simple as that.

President Appoints New Army Commander

FL1209181590 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic has appointed Colonel Isidoro Narciso Mojica as commander of the Fourth Brigade of the National Army based in Valverde. Col. Mojica is replacing National Army Brigade General Aurelio A. del Rosario Polanco, according to Decree 322-90. [passage omitted]

Haiti

State Council Member Interviewed in Jacmel

FL1209164090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Report by correspondent Pierre Nazon Beauliere from Jacmel]

[Text] Dr. Newton Jeudy, southeast representative on the State Council, was interviewed by Radio Express Continental while on a visit to Jacmel. In this interview, Dr. Jeudy analyzed for all the people in the southeast the origin and cause of the conflict existing between Mrs. Trouillot and the State Council. He cited the 4 March agreement to illustrate how the executive has never respected to the letter the contents of this agreement. These reasons caused the State Council to be obliged to sever all relations with Mrs. Trouillot. Dr. Jeudy also said there is no longer the possibility of dialogue between the State Council and Mrs. Trouillot.

Regarding the accusation that there are many members of the State Council who are also ambitious for power, here is what Dr. Newton Jeudy answered:

When you have a dog you do not like, you accuse it of being mad. Since the day it was created, since it started to function, the State Council has been working to satisfy the popular demands. You remember that at the beginning of 1986, if anyone presented the problems of the people in a way different from the traditionalist way, he was said to be a communist. They gave him a number of names because his point of view was different from theirs. What has the State Council wanted since it was

established? It wants conditions to exist, not ideal conditions, but minimal conditions so that we can have honest and credible elections in the country. In the meantime, the people who want official elections to be held for them never agree that these minimal conditions can be realized. That is the reason why they say the State Council is ambitious for power.

This is what Dr. Newton Jeudy said on Radio Express Continental.

CEP Member Interviewed on Call for Contributions

FL1209181390 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Report on interview with CEP member Marc-Antoine Noel by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] Marc-Antoine Noel, one of the members of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] that we contacted, thinks that the call issued by the CEP was made to unify the nation as a whole, so that a Haitian can recognize himself as such wherever he lives. The CEP is showing an example to the coming government that dialogue must be maintained with the Haitian diaspora on the decisions to be made within the country. If such a call, however, is not followed, according to Marc-Antoine Noel, the CEP would have to pass on this responsibility to the government. This would mean passing on the election matter and the sole financial responsibility to the government of Mrs. Ertha Pascal Trouillot. Nevertheless, has the CEP call not come too late?

[Begin Marc-Antoine Noel recording] It is a difficult question to answer. It will be the results that will decide whether it is too late or not. I believe that some people living abroad have started to react, according to some unofficial information that I have. [passage omitted]

We still have four weeks or so before the start of voter registration. We will need contributions for registration but there are some weeks to go before registration. The greatest cost in the budget is the electoral operations themselves: registration and voting, due to sixty thousand people to pay; imagine, per day, that is $600,000, although I do not think we will have these sixty thousand people. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Noel also reported that some Haitians living abroad have already promised some help. The CEP has already received great support and feedback concerning this call. It is for the CEP as well as the interested parties to define by which means such money will go to CEP's accounts, because this money will not fall into the hands of the government, according to Noel's declarations. Furthermore, this call does not reject international economic help but it is an initiative taken to help the CEP be more independent. [passage omitted]

Several political parties have set up a committee to collect money on this matter. If the CEP agrees to receive money from those political parties, would not such a matter cast great doubts and cause problems for the CEP?

[Begin Noel recording] Let me tell you that in our eyes these are not political parties, rather they are citizens. Let me tell you that some citizens living abroad have started to organize themselves. Some are nonpolitical, while others are political people who are complying with our call. We do not know yet the importance of such a response but what is important to us is that we do not see them as political. We are going to set up an independent channel between us and them. Within the CEP we will define the channel for receiving and collecting information so that there is no political color, especially regarding control, reception, and use of information so that nothing political takes place. There will be a totally independent channel between us and them that everyone will know, will see, and verify. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Deregulation of Foreign Exchange Market Announced

FL1209183590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1513 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept 12, CANA—The Jamaica Government plans to cut spending by an additional J 250 million dollars (one J dollar = 14.2 U.S. cents) as part of its demand management policy as it carries out a planned deregulation of the economy, the GLEANER newspaper reported Wednesday. Acting Prime Minister P.J. Patterson told reporters Tuesday after he announced the deregulation of the foreign exchange market that the government would be identifying other areas of employment.

He said he did not expect any significant increase in unemployment to result from the new policy and that efforts would be made to protect the poor. The cutback came as the government reduced the target for the overall public sector deficit by one percent to 3.5 percent of gross domestic product.

On Tuesday Patterson outlined in Parliament major shifts in the government's economic policies but did not disclose details of the new loan agreement with the International Monetary Fund. Patterson said that a further statement will be made as soon as the Fund's managing director had given his approval to the letter of intent which has been sent to Washington. The approval would enable the country to gain access to 82 million special drawing rights by March 1991.

"We expect a positive outcome. But since the application for a waiver is still in the process of consideration, it would be premature at this time to release the details of the contemplated agreement," Patterson said in a statement to Parliament.

He also confirmed earlier reports that the government had decided to deregulate the foreign exchange market, effective September 17. Under the new system, foreign exchange transactions will take place through the interbank foreign exchange trading system operated by the

commercial banks and the Bank of Jamaica. Commercial banks will no longer be agents of the central bank in buying and selling foreign currency but will operate on their own account.

The central bank will retain control over the receipts from the sale of bauxite, alumina, sugar, bananas, and tourism and proceeds from official loans and divestments. All other foreign exchange receipts will be deposited at commercial banks. Commercial banks will set their own rates based on market conditions and the average rate of the various commercial banks will determine the rate at which the Bank of Jamaica deals in foreign exchange. Commercial banks will also be required to sell to the central bank a portion of their foreign exchange at market rate.

Trinidad and Tobago

Press Speculates on Possible Cabinet Reshuffle

FL1209180590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1711 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Sept 12, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago press on Wednesday speculated that demotions of senior government ministers and promotions of junior ministers would soon be announced by Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson.

The two daily newspapers, the EXPRESS and the GUARDIAN, said that Selwyn Richardson, who holds the portfolio of justice and national security, may end up with a lower-profiled ministry. Richardson was criticised by several—but apparently supported by Cabinet colleagues—after a July 27 coup attempt by radical Black Muslims.

The EXPRESS on Wednesday said the "justice" part of Richardson's ministry would go to Attorney General Anthony Smart, while the GUARDIAN's sources said Richardson would be left with the Justice Ministry and will be given another portfolio to deal with settlements.

The EXPRESS said health minister, Dr. Emanuel Hosein will be demoted and his portfolio given to Lincoln Myers who currently holds the Ministry of Environment and National Service. The GUARDIAN also said Hosein will be demoted together with Labour Minister Albert Richards for his low-keyed role during the crisis situation.

The paper speculated that deputy political leader of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction, Karl Hudson-Phillip, could contest the by elections for the Deigo Martin Central seat, made vacant by the death of Leo des Vignes. Des Vignes died from a heart attack while undergoing an operation for a gun shot wound, sustained when rebel Muslims stormed Parliament.

Government Seeks Return of Citizens From Iraq

PA1209160890 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1330 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] A special mission from the Foreign Relations Secretariat will travel on 12 September to Jordan to coordinate the departure of Mexicans detained in Iraqi and Kuwaiti territory with the Mexican embassy in Iraq.

According to a report issued by the secretariat, on 10 September a call was placed to the Iraqi charge d'affaires, to whom the Mexican Government reiterated its request that Iraq—immediately and without any excuses whatsoever—authorize the departure of detained Mexican citizens, who have requested to be transferred.

The Foreign Relations Secretariat emphasized that it will continue its efforts through other friendly countries in the Middle East to ensure that those citizens return to Mexico as soon as possible.

* Television Panel Discusses Trade Agreement

90CA0113A Mexico City NEXOS in Spanish No 151, Jul 90 pp 45-50

[Transcription of "NEXOS TV" panel discussion; date not given]

[Text] Today we are publishing a specially edited transcription of the "NEXOS TV" panel discussion on the topic of free trade. Participants included: Clark Reynolds, founder of the Mexico-United States Program sponsored by Stanford University, along with other American institutions. The author of several books on the subject, he holds a Master's Degree in Economics from the Stanford University Food Research Institute and is now director of that university's Program for the Americas. Carlos Rico is a research scholar for El Colegio de Mexico specializing in relations between Mexico and the United States. He served as director of the CIDE [Center for Economic Research and Instruction] United States Institute of Studies and has coordinated such projects as the American Dialogue. Mexican businessman Juan Sanchez Navarro, doctor of law and philosophy from UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico] and professor of the philsophy of law, has served as president of the Confederation of Industrial Associations, the Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce, the Business Coordinating Council (CCE), and the Mexican Council of Businessmen. He is currently vice president and director of the Model Brewery. Rolando Cordera, economist and research scholar at the UNAM School of Economics, is a member of the Editorial Board of our periodical and director of the program "NEXOS TV." His latest book is "Las decisiones del poder" [Government Decisions] (Cal y Arena, 1989).

[Cordera] Clark Reynolds has brought up not only the inevitability, but also the desirability, of establishing a kind of open commercial and economic trade zone between Mexico and the United States. Such a thing is no longer taboo, but nevertheless continues to be a delicate and complex issue in the light of economic problems and the attitude of the United States toward Latin America. In the field of integration, the common market, and free trade, what is, after all, the "state of the art"?

[Reynolds] The state of the art has scarcely begun. The problem goes far beyond set models and is more complex in terms of the different structures of the three countries involved: Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Over the past 10 or 15 years, I have stated that economic interdependency is becoming a fact of life. A kind of "silent integration" has now become, let us say, more manifest. And yet, it is very difficult to say how it will all be coordinated, especially between Mexico and the United States. It implies an enormous effort of mutual understanding and the exploitation of economic opportunities, but not blindly. It is not enough merely to say, "We are going to have a common market," in order to have one.

[Cordera] But don't we Mexicans run the risk of becoming junior partners, eternal underlings of the United States?

[Reynolds] Dangers always exist, especially for the smaller country. Mexico is not that small in terms of population: It has a population a third the size of that of the United States, but in economic terms, its gross domestic product is minimal compared with that of the United States. Mexico's production is small, but its population is not. Its potential market may be enormous. In my opinion, the best way for Mexico to use that potential is by taking advantage of the opening in the market, but in a calculated, deliberate manner, making the most of what is Mexican and respecting the differences in the two systems.

[Cordera] We asked Juan Sanchez Navarro if he deems Clark Reynolds' outlook realistic. Can opportunities be taken advantage of while maintaining Mexico's sovereignty? Shall we not rapidly lose the very idea of sovereignty?

[Sanchez Navarro] No. The way in which Professor Reynolds has presented the problem is very cautious, very suited to the actual situation. Indeed, Mexico cannot be isolated from the contemporary world. The problem that we businessmen present in connection with this issue is that Mexico cannot continue the isolation it has maintained for many years. Mexico cannot be excluded from the integration of blocs and common markets. We tried to do this with very negative—or at least relatively unfavorable—results with the founding of the AILA, the Association of Latin American Manufacturers, in 1962 and 1963. After many years, the result was that Mexico and Latin America did not succeed in their integration attempt. Now, however, the world has changed. The European Common Market is an impressive reality, the possibilities of a common market between Canada and the United States are obvious, although still far from the style of European integration, and Mexico must somehow participate in one of the blocs in order not to remain an outsider.

[Cordera] Would you say we are in a position to designate which bloc suits us? Would you say that the North American common market is what Mexico has to look forward to?

[Sanchez Navarro] I will say what does not seem viable to me: The Latin American common market is not viable. It would be very interesting and very romantic, but in actual fact, the Latin American common market will never have truly optimistic results. There is a Mexican saying that explains it: In a penniless marriage, everyone gets fleeced. This means that even when poor folks join together, we can never get rich.

[Rico] There are at least three topics on the agenda that seem to me to be very important. The first is the problem that Rolando Cordera initially brought up concerning whether the free trade zone is a) inevitable and b) desirable. The second is what the consequences are in terms of symmetry, shall we say, to what extent we can look forward to a process in which there will not be an integration of the Mexican economy into the American economy, but rather, an integration of the Mexican economy in the American economy. The third topic is whether in fact this process has taken place independently of what governments have done. Clark Reynolds suggested that the integration between Mexico and the United States is not formal, but rather, silent—we might call it "inertial" or many other things—but if, for example, we use European indicators to refer to the degree of concentration of trade relations between Mexico and the United States, we see that even though Europe has made great progress in the integration process, it is difficult even there to find any pairs of countries that have 70 percent of their commercial trade with only one other country. And this is not only true of Europe: It is difficult to find such a thing in any zone of formal integration. Furthermore, in the past five or six years, the most dynamic sector of Mexican exports to the United States has been the exportation of auto parts, a productive process divided by the border. This type of process is what has grown the most in recent years and it is why I wonder to what extent we can formalize this and what meaning it would have to do so, because I do not see how we can prevent it from happening. I think it has already happened to a very great degree and what one has to ask is why it did. This process was not decided by the Mexican Government, but rather, by what, in a somewhat abstract manner, we could call the market. In other words, these are decisions made by all those of us who are not the government.

[Cordera] So in other words, we are already integrated? The problem lies somewhere else?

[Rico] No, I did not say we are integrated. I think there is a rather marked trend in that direction and the important thing is not whether or not we are integrated, but *how* we are integrated. What interests me are the costs and benefits of this specific type of integration.

[Cordera] This type of integration is not good for Mexico?

[Rico] It is in fact a very asymmetrical integration in which Mexico is a junior partner. Even though at a given point in time we are the United States' third- or fourth-ranking trading partner, we do not represent more than four percent of American trade. In contrast, Canada comprises 30 percent of American trade. But that is not the only problem. We also have the problem of who in Mexico benefits the most or the least from this process.

[Sanchez Navarro] I think this process should be formalized. There is already a political implication and it is something we must handle right, beginning by choosing the issues very carefully. I think the topic of Mexico's integration with the United States is inevitable in the economic sphere. In the political arena, it rouses major objections and we have to reflect a great deal about how to implement this integration, so as not to hurt Mexico and not violate its sovereignty. The public sector and businessmen must both participate for the good of Mexico in this integration, which, as I said, is now silent, but which in the future will have to be defined and politically arranged as valid and viable for Mexico.

[Rico] We must make it clear that the costs and benefits are not necessarily of integration as an abstract concept, but of the specific forms it has taken. We must see whether there can be other ways of channeling this process for the good of the vast majority.

[Sanchez Navarro] In the European Common Market, there has been an asymmetrical integration in many Common Market countries. Obviously, the distance between Germany and Greece, to give but one example, or between Germany and Spain, or France and Spain, or Portugal and England, is very great and yet, despite all the asymmetry, they have achieved integration that has yielded positive benefits and results for all countries in the European community. Similarly, I think the obvious asymmetry between Mexico and the United States will not hurt our country in the long run.

[Reynolds] The asymmetry also exists within the two countries, to say nothing of that between poor people and the middle and upper class, the wealthier people. The asymmetry is very great and may continue to grow.

Whatever offers the possibility of such integration, provided the rights of both workers and investors are respected, is precisely that which reduces the asymmetry within each country thanks to greater growth of both, but the key is to reach a social accord embracing, not only the United States or Mexico, but the two combined, an accord to respect rights.

[Cordera] Why is Canada not mentioned? To spare words or detract from its importance?

[Reynolds] Canada is obviously very important, but the breach is not as great between Canada and the United States as it is between the United States and Mexico. But I see, for example, that in the United States, there are union representatives and workers concerned over the silent, unchanneled integration, and respect for the

workers alone can lead to a level of basic wages for the two countries. If there is no development in Mexico, Mexico offers workers at extremely low prices. If there is no development in the United States, the wages of the American workers also drop. So there is a problem of mutual development and we must not only respect the rights of each sector, but also the rights of workers so they may participate in that growth.

[Rico] The implications for the different social groups, as described by Clark Reynolds, are directly related to specific forms of integration. In the form we have now, Mexican labor does not enjoy free movement, at least legally. Moreover, we place emphasis on an export platform that says: Between now and the end of the century, at least the Mexican workers connected with this will be earning $4 a day. This form of integration has very concrete implications for those workers who cannot go to the United States and who have to stay here working for $4 a day. A different kind of integration which the Americans have so far refused to accept and in which there would be a free flow of labor would have totally different implications. Clark Reynolds has proposed a precise way to open up labor markets.

[Cordera] Clark Reynolds was speaking about aspiring to a kind of integration that is not blind.

[Rico] In a way, things are already being negotiated. Before, we had integration basically moved by the market, but in recent years it has become a type of integration in which politics and the market move in the same direction, so there is now a parallel movement. We can use euphemisms such as one claiming that we are trying to become integrated into the world economy, but when the world economy means for us that 70 percent of our exports go to the United States, 80 percent of our direct investments are with the United States, and nearly 90 percent of our tourism comes from the United States, then "world economy" is an elegant way of saying "the United States."

[Reynolds] We must also think very coldly about Mexican internal integration incorporating 80 percent of the population that is now on the fringe or in a place not connected with the market. For example, let us take the case of beer, Juan Sanchez Navarro's industry. In 1910, a bottle of beer cost more than a Mexican worker earned in an entire day. Only the middle class could drink beer in Mexico, but we have finally reached a point where workers can drink a lot of beer and it is one of the most important national markets. There are beer trucks on every corner of the country and we now export to the United States. So we must not forget the market of national integration because of focusing exclusively on binational integration. The same is true of the United States. Some 80 million Americans who can buy something and not simply endure poverty offer a fantastic market. So it is also to the advantage of the United States to consider social participation and open up the national market while opening the binational market.

[Cordera] At what speed should such integration take place?

[Sanchez Navarro] Events gradually impose the real speed of integration, but we must not hurry it. Geography dictates in these matters, but we must also look at the political and economic aspects emphasized by Reynolds and Rico, without haste but also without stopping. This is what will almost inevitably occur in the process of integration between Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

[Cordera] But do we have the political, institutional, and social conditions we need to proceed without haste but without stopping? I would bring up two points: One is the enormous inequality suffered by our country. Reynolds spoke of economic and social disintegration; Carlos Rico spoke of asymmetrical impacts and harm suffered by many population groups. The other matter is related to our businessmen: Can they proceed on a solid footing, establish this open and visionary dialogue, be in a larger market and, at the same time, administer the process?

[Sanchez Navarro] The experience of recent years has demonstrated that the Mexican businessman was much better prepared for the modernization of Mexico's industrial plant than had been thought. The economy opened up somewhat or to a fair extent. After being closed for 50 years, the economy opened up substantially and it was thought that in this process of international competition, national industry would disappear but this never happened. National enterprise is acquiring new technology, improving substantially, and achieving important elements of quality. The Mexican businessman does not fear such an opening. It will naturally not take place all at once; it must come about as events determine the progress of such integration.

[Cordera] And the exclusion, the inequality, would be handled separately, at the same time, or later?

[Sanchez Navarro] As we have seen on the European Common Market, the unequal countries that integrate gradually tend to become equal. In Spain, it is crystal clear: A country that lagged far behind the rest of the West European countries is now able, thanks to the efforts of the Spanish people themselves, to compete successfully with France and Germany in many fields.

[Rico] When we speak of North America, as people are beginning to do, we should recall another detail that goes beyond immediate geography: "North America" is nothing more than Canada, the United States, and Mexico. If one engages in a very elementary exercise with a map of the entire hemisphere and puts the percentage of trade which the United States represents on each of the countries, the result could not be clearer: Countries in the Southern Conne always have less than 30 percent concentrated in the United States (in some cases, four to five percent) and, as one moves up and reaches northern South America, the countries already have 40 or almost 50 percent of their trade concentrated in the United States. After Panama, continuing to move north, with the obvious exceptions of Nicaragua and Cuba, you always have concentrations of over 50 percent. Mexico is not an isolated case. The trade of Haiti

and the Dominican Republic—or Panama before the embargo—is as concentrated with the United States as ours. This primarily reflects the strength of that economic magnet. It also reflects something else: If we think in such terms, Mexico is the only country in North America that does not have a formal free trade agreement with the United States. Canada, the Caribbean, and Central America all do.

If we think about population movements, Mexico has the largest number of inhabitants in the United States, but now, all the Caribbean and Central American countries (with the exception of Guatemala) have over 10 percent of their population living in the United States, while Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay have a minimal percentage. One must state the phenomenon in this context in order to understand the forces at work. Because of the times, I think it will be a very complicated process with very serious obstacles. It is something I do not like because I still think it will not be a process between equal partners. I do not like the idea that Mexico will occupy a subordinate position.

[Cordera] So the common market means dilution of the Mexican nationality?

[Rico] That is not what I am saying. I am saying it is an asymmetrical process. It is naturally not, in terms of cultural strength, which is one area in which Mexico is safe, but it is in terms of economic integration. Now then, there are also many people in the United States who do not like the process. Some of them are as nationalistic as we are and what they would like to do is avoid proximity with Mexico. Whence all the restrictions on the flow of labor.

[Cordera] I would like to know Clark Reynolds' reaction to the proposal of "without haste but without stopping" and to the conception that the process rouses displeasure with respect to its content and purposes.

[Reynolds] What must be promoted the most is Mexico's recovery, to say nothing of what comes after recovery: growth. In terms of integration, I think it can move step by step, provided there is an element in the very integration of the national market in both countries. In my opinion, national policy in Mexico at this time is focused a little more on the development of commercial integration with other countries than on development of the national market.

[Cordera] Should more importance be given to national integration and the domestic market than to exports?

[Reynolds] Much more, yes. It is the only way.

[Sanchez Navarro] I totally agree with that view. We must begin by solving our national problems so that such asymmetry does not inflict severe harm. I do not agree with Carlos Rico that we are going to lose, if not our sovereignty, then at least our nation's very identity. On the contrary, I think we are also going to exert a great deal of influence and we are in fact influencing American life. That influence is reciprocal. We have seen it in other free trade and common market zones and this will happen on the North American common market.

[Cordera] How can we look ahead on this matter, deliberately and calculatingly, so as to find the most desirable and most viable paths?

[Rico] In 1987, Canada and the United States reached a free trade agreement, but it is not something that was formalized at the precise time of negotiation. It was something that had been in the works since the 1960's, when Canada and the United States signed a series of free trade agreements in the automotive industry, which indeed resemble those we now have with the United States. It is a long, meticulous, and very complicated process even in countries that are not as different culturally as we and the Americans are. Nevertheless, it turned out to be a process very difficult to reverse. It is a linear process that will certainly have its setbacks and cause difficulties, but whether or not it exists will not depend on a strictly political decision. Second, when I referred to our "cultural strength," I did not mean that a process of integration would not also have an impact on that dimension. The Canadians are playing that card. What is said or believed is serious: "We are going to integrate economically, but nothing will happen, politically speaking." Over the next five or six years, the Canadian case will provide us with a very good element of study in order to see to what extent there are real possibilities of maintaining significant degrees of autonomy and sovereignty. The question is open and it is too soon to be able to answer it definitively.

[Reynolds] It is necessary to study, act, and place out bets. We must study both countries more. In Mexico, we must get to know the United States better and vice versa. We must proceed on the assumption that Mexico must be better represented and have a more vocal participation in decision-making echelons of business, unions, and governments in the United States. We must stake the country's future on the possibility of enormous growth, based on the fact that here, productivity is one-eighth that of the United States. We must wager that it is possible to achieve the same level without the United States also declining. On the contrary, the United States must increase much faster, and Mexican productivity and income must increase faster and better. In my opinion, Mexico's future lies in filling that breach of one to eight. The potential is enormous. I think it is worthwhile to make the bet.

[Sanchez Navarro] I think integration into the common market of Canada, Mexico, and the United States will be inevitable in the future. It will happen sooner or later, although it may be a very complex process filled with difficulties in countless areas. Above all, it will be a long-term process. It is naive to think it will happen in five or 10 years. The European Common Market is 40 years old and the European countries were much closer to integration than we are with the United States and Canada.

Without any need to force events, momentum itself will lead us in that direction. At the same time, however, we must not resist those things that can be of so much benefit to a developing economy such as ours that will perhaps find opportunities undreamed of in gradual integration into the American and Canadian common market.

El Salvador

Presidency Vice Ministers Give News Conference

PA1209215090 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Aug 90

[News conference by Presidency Vice Minister Ernesto Altschul and Presidency Information Secretary Mauricio Sandoval with local and foreign reporters and unidentified moderator on 31 August; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Altschul] Gentlemen, thank you for joining us this morning. I wish to refer briefly to the fact that over the past decade, the Salvadoran people have courageously and stoically endured terrorist activities that have resulted in great destruction, grief, and mourning. Unfortunately, we must focus our attention, not only on the physical and material side of this, but also on the emotional and spiritual damage inflicted on the Salvadoran people by the propaganda and disinformation campaign that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has carried out over the past decade.

In January, President Alfredo Cristiani sought to resume the talks. He succeeded in getting the support of the five Central American presidents in San Isidro de Coronado and the talks were resumed with the assistance of the UN Secretary General. At that time we witnessed an acceleration of the propaganda and disinformation campaign. There was an attempt to portray the government as inflexible and unwilling to discuss the subjects agreed upon. We are respectful of the agreement signed in Geneva not to publicly discuss the negotiations. This is the main reason the government's stand has always been presented directly to the FMLN commission and the UN Secretary General at the negotiation table and never in public, particularly on a topic as sensitive as peace. It is important, however, for the Salvadoran people to be kept posted. Because we assumed office through the people's will last year, we must keep the people fully informed of the reality of the situation. This morning, we intend to present to you part of this reality.

You will remember that the Armed Forces was one of the subjects included in the jointly agreed upon agenda during the first meeting in Caracas. The FMLN thought that the government would flatly refuse to discuss this point. The FMLN thought that we were going to assume an adamant stand. The FMLN presented a view in Huaxtepec, Mexico in July. Although we always have the capacity to analyze, refute, talk, and discuss these points, this position involved a proposal that contained several points that we felt implied a rapprochement. Because of the disunity, not only among the FMLN General Command, but also among the commanders and combatants, we instead witnessed a different proposal being presented at the most recent meeting in Costa Rica. The proposal had become more radical. Before moving on to questions and answers, the purpose of this brief talk is to show you precisely some of the aspects on which the FMLN's proposal has become so radical.

For instance, in July, the FMLN stated that control of the Armed Forces' should be transferred to civilians. They argued that the society is militarized and that this has created a great controversy in society. We expressed our views. The process was just beginning. In August, however, the FMLN shifted its stand saying that the Armed Forces should be disbanded completely. It is important for you to know that, at the beginning of the process, when the Geneva Pact was signed, the government clearly stated that dissolving the Armed Forces could not be negotiated. We said that if they wanted us to discuss professionalizing and restructuring the Armed Forces and the effort to create a stronger institution within a democratic process, we were willing to sit down and talk about it.

In July, for instance, regarding impunity, the FMLN demanded punishment for the guilty in four criminal cases—the deaths of the Jesuit priests, Hector Oqueli Colindres, Msgr. Arnulfo Romero, and the Fenastras [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] members. The FMLN maintained that these were to be exemplary trials. The government, without admitting responsibility at all on these points, believes that these cases must be investigated in depth. We have discussed these things with you reporters before. The deaths of the Jesuit priests continue under investigation and soon justice will be administered on those cases. In August, the FMLN again shifted its stance and said that they wanted punishment applied not only in these four cases, but on hundreds upon hundreds of alleged criminals, in other words, for all crimes perpetrated in the country since 1979. Can you imagine what it means to look into 1,000, 2,000, 3,000, or 4,000 alleged human rights violations in a country that has suffered from a ten-year conflict? What would happen if we showed up with 5,000 or 10,000 FMLN cases? This country would spend the next century conducting trials.

In July, the FMLN said that ... ir main objective was the restructuring of the Armed Forces. As we told you, this has always been an objective of this government and has been included in its political agenda—to adapt the institution to its new role in society. In August the FMLN said, however, that the Armed Forces should not exist at all, thus making their stand entirely unreasonable. In July, they said that the battalions of the security organizations should become a part of the regular Army, such as the 3d Infantry Brigade or the 4th Brigade. But in August, the FMLN again shifted its position and now says that the battalions that work within security organizations must be disbanded entirely.

Again, complete inconsistency in the two stances was presented, one in July and another in August. In July, the FMLN said that the National Police should be under the orders of a civilian ministry. In August, however, they said that the National Police should be disbanded and that all of its members and those of the Treasury Police should be transferred to other Army units.

What consistency do we find in all this? What is the FMLN's true intention? Where exactly is its true willingness to negotiate?

I would like to add one more thing in this regard. Let us recall that there is not just one point related to the National Police, but that there is a demand that this entire matter be handled by a commission chosen by consensus and that the FMLN would be part of that commission. In other words, the FMLN would be a member of a board of directors that will head the National Police. It is interesting to consider what moral authority the FMLN has to head a civilian national police force.

Thus, I have made a few statements so that you and the Salvadoran people will realize that despite the FMLN disinformation, all its threats of an offensive, and its propaganda saying that the government has no willingness to negotiate, the government is determined to continue the peace process. We are going to the upcoming meeting in Costa Rica with a positive mind. We hope to return to discussion of the three basic objectives upon which we agreed in Geneva—to promote the country's democratization, to enforce absolute respect for human rights in El Salvador, and to lead Salvadoran society to reconciliation.

Gentlemen of the FMLN, let us work toward reconciliation. We hope that at the next meeting you will present a logical, rational, and sensible position that leads to attaining political agreements that will allow us to agree on ending the armed confrontation and subsequently on permanent peace, which is what the Salvadoran people demand and for which they long. Thank you very much.

[Moderator] Let us begin the question and answer period. We request that you approach the microphone when you ask your questions, because this news conference is being transmitted on the radio, and it is important that the questions are heard. Marco Antonio Guevara from Canal Doce Television has the floor. [words indistinct] Mariela Melgar from Tele Prensa has the floor.

[Melgar] I would like to know what the government considers to be the reason for the FMLN's making their proposals and position so radical?

[Altschul] I firmly believe—and we base our views on intelligence information we have gathered both inside and outside the country—that the FMLN believed that the government would not adopt a specific position on the Armed Forces issue, that the government would simply refuse to discuss it. The FMLN presented its proposal in Mexico with that idea in mind. When the FMLN realized the scope of the content and dimension of the government's response, however, it completely changed its position, making it so radical, because there was no common agreement among the five FMLN commanders. Unfortunately, I cannot tell you whether three of them agree on one thing and two disagree or if one commander disagrees with the other four. All we know is that the rift exists. To please the five commanders, the FMLN made its position so radical. In addition to the Armed Forces issue, the FMLN also based its position on the fact that for the first time since 1984, when the government and the FMLN held their first official talks, the FMLN and the Salvadoran Government reached their first agreement. As a result of that agreement, the FMLN thought the process of negotiation had to follow a certain pattern and that it would provide opportunities for reaching subsequent agreements and eventually meet the initial deadline we had agreed upon, 15 September.

It seems to me that the changing of the FMLN position and making it so radical is the result of internal division within the FMLN and a negotiating tactic.

[Sandoval] I would like to add that these disagreements within the FMLN have worsened precisely because of the human rights agreement signed in San Jose, as Mr. Altschul said. The first paragraph of that agreement virtually forces the FMLN to cease violent activity that may affect civilians, including the FMLN's frequent attacks on the energy system. This agreement and these commitments, therefore, worsened differences within the FMLN. We consider that to be a possible reason for their position becoming so radical. We believe, however, that the FMLN is working in a tactical and strategic manner, and we hope that it will present a different position at the upcoming meeting for the well-being of the Salvadoran civilian population, which suffers the most from FMLN actions.

[Moderator] A question by Gema Lazarte. No? Okay, then Elder Osvaldo Gomez from ACAN-EFE has the floor.

[Gomez] Mr. Minister, I want to know whether the government foresees attaining a cease-fire agreement with the FMLN by September despite the impasse created by the Armed Forces issue?

[Altschul] Since the meeting scheduled for the month of September begins on 13 September, it appears that the deadline we established with the FMLN during the Caracas meeting will be difficult to meet. This should, however, be viewed realistically. This is a dynamic process and as such we will continue to work on it seriously and persistently to reach a political agreement on a cease-fire as soon as possible, whether after the upcoming meeting in Costa Rica or after the next meeting. I believe it will be difficult to achieve that goal, but the government's resolve has not weakened.

[Moderator] Cecilia Agosso from the Italian press agency.

[Agosso] What is the government's position concerning possible immediate international verification of compliance with the human rights agreement signed at the end of the most recent meeting held in Costa Rica? Have

there been any changes concerning this verification? If so, would you be willing to discuss this with the FMLN at the upcoming meeting?

[Altschul] Thank you very much for your question. I believe this to be a very important and relevant question.

If you read the text of the Geneva Agreement, you will see that all passages that deal with the verification process textually state that verification should be previously approved by the UN Security Council. This provision follows a series of specific procedures established by the United Nations. The United Nations should be convinced that specific conditions that allow the United Nations to deploy personnel to conduct the verification process indeed exist. In his most recent statements, the representative of the UN Secretary General has clearly said that he believes those conditions do not presently exist in El Salvador.

However, the government's position is: As soon as the United Nations believes that the verification process can take place, it should take place. We are trying to meet one of this government's main commitments, which is to succeed in enforcing total respect for human rights. We made that commitment on 1 June 1989. In other words, we welcome the UN verification process, but this is not a unilateral decision by the Salvadoran Government. The government wants this process to begin as soon as possible and as soon as the United Nations decides that it can be conducted.

[Moderator] Ismael Beltran Solano from the newspaper EL DIARIO DE HOY.

[Beltran] Thank you and good afternoon. Mr. Altschul, we have seen that despite the peace talks, the flow of weapons into our country continues, as is demonstrated by the confiscation of a large shipment of weapons in Honduras. I would like to know whether the government has talked with the new Nicaraguan Government headed by Mrs. Violeta Chamorro in this regard, because it seems that although there is a new government in Nicaragua, the weapons deliveries continue.

[Altschul] Thank you very much. Yours is an important question because recently the Honduran Army confiscated a large shipment of weapons at the Fraternidad Customs post. The vehicle in which the weapons were hidden, which was driven by Mrs. Edel Florence de Masier, a Belgian I believe, had various sets of ownership papers, including some issued in Mexico. The vehicle was a van. The authorities have learned that this is not the first time Mrs. Masier has delivered weapons from Nicaragua to El Salvador. It is thought that there have been six deliveries through this courier.

The Nicaraguan Government's political resolve is clear. Mrs. Violeta Chamorro has expressed that resolve and we firmly believe that she does have it. As you know, as a result of the transition that Nicaragua has experienced and to attain national reconciliation and to change that beautiful, fraternal nation into the type of society for which all Nicaraguans long, the Army was left in the hands of the Sandinists. In the case of this weapons confiscation, we never thought that the Nicaraguan Government was sending weapons to the FMLN guerrillas, but that certain groups or the Sandinist Army are still sending weapons to the FMLN. That should be clear, because we do not hold Mrs. Violeta Chamorro government responsible for this delivery. We hold the Sandinists responsible. [passage omitted]

Labor Leader on Request To Suspend Foreign Aid

PA1209162690 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 10 Sep 90 p 5

[Text] The request made by the National Peasant-Worker Unity (UNOC) to the U.S. Congress to suspend the benefits to the country under the General Preference System (SGP) is not a betrayal of the fatherland, according to the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS).

In statements to DIARIO LATINO, UNTS spokeswoman Rosario Acosta described as irresponsible and improper the statements made by Garcia Prieto, president of the Finata [National Financial Institution for Agricultural Lands], some ministers, and the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] itself regarding the UNOC request.

"The attitude of the government officials makes it seem as though they are not leading the country's national politics. These statements sound like barroom quarrels that have no reason to exist," she said.

According to the labor leader, none of the people who accuse the UNOC should be leading the country and the least they can do is explain their position and publicly apologize to UNOC members for all the accusations made against that peasant organization.

Acosta pointed out that UNOC, UNTS, and CTS [Salvadoran Workers Federation]—as well as other organizations—defend the interests of workers, peasants, and especially the poor people.

She added that any person or organization in the country that supports the workers' struggle and demands peaceful solutions to problems is accused of being a leftist, a terrorist, and—in the case of UNOC—traitors to the fatherland. We absolutely reject this, the UNTS leader said.

Acosta said that the UNOC request will not adversely affect small businessmen, as Economy Minister Arturo Zablah has been saying. She said small businessmen have never benefitted from foreign aid.

"I am sure that this request will not adversely affect small businessmen because, if this were the case, no minister would be shouting and spitting his venom against UNOC," Acosta said.

She also said that those who will be adversely affected by the suspension of the SGP will be the big businessmen and that is why the government officlals are speaking on behalf of the big businessmen and cursing UNOC. In this regard, we support UNOC's request.

According to UNTS, the biggest betrayal that has ever existed has been that of selling the sovereignty of the entire people and of mortgaging Salvadoran lands to the interest of the U.S. Administration and that is why government officials are saying nothing. This really is a betrayal of the fatherland, she said.

Honduras

Callejas Deplores Iraqi Free Oil Offer

PA1209175790 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] The country's economic situation and the position of the National Enterprise for Electric Power [ENEE] labor union workers has been discussed by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas. When asked whether Honduras will accept Iraq's offer to give free oil to Third World countries, Callejas responded:

[Callejas] *Of course not. We are signatories of the UN agreement. Besides, that is a very strange offer that cannot be fulfilled. It is just an effort to help him save face, but it is an unacceptable offer. I believe the offer is some sort of manifestation of contempt for the world. Because of what he has done, Honduras has to pay an additional $10 for each barrel of oil it purchases. If the current situation is maintained, Saddam Husayn's decision will cost our country more than $150,000 per day.*

[Reporter] *Mr. President, has the government made any decision on oil by-product price increases?*

[Callejas] *The government is doing all it can to avoid having to increase oil prices. We felt the impact of the first oil price increase at the beginning of September when the bills for the past two shipments were above the $25 per barrel mark. The current price is almost $10 higher than that. This is why we are trying to secure in Mexico and Venezuela better conditions for financing the difference between the oil price we had been paying and the price we have to pay now. This cannot be maintained for a long time, so we have asked congress to implement a five percent tariff reduction as soon as a new OPEC oil price goes into effect. What we want may be illusory, but we want the Iraqi conflict to be resolved soon. If this happens, oil prices would drop to $21 per barrel. This is still high, but it is a level we can manage. We will wait as long as we can, probably for two more oil shipments. This means that an oil price increase could take place within the next 30 or 60 days.*

[Reporter] *What was the outcome of the efforts made by the Central American governments to secure special oil prices from Mexico and Venezuela?*

[Callejas] *We are working on that. We believe that the presidents of Mexico and Venezuela have the best intentions, but Venezuela depends on OPEC, which must approve Venezuelan prices. Mexico must consider the fact that Central America, especially Nicaragua, has a huge debt of more than $2 billion with Mexico. Of course, Mexico believes that a new financial option of the San Jose Pact must take this situation into consideration. We hope that during the visit of the Central American economic ministers to Mexico, our objective can be secured.*

President Callejas was asked if he is prepared to withdraw his bill on a selective consumption tax. Callejas said:

[Callejas] *Only in cases where low-income consumers are directly affected. This is a temporary measure. This is a tax that depends on the increase in oil prices to compensate for fiscal income losses, to retain our foreign exchange, and to make the acquisition of vehicles more difficult, thus avoiding increased oil consumption. This tax applies to a selective sector of Honduran society. It is not being applied to everything. The people have already been burdened with too many expenses in this phase of economic restructuring.*

Regarding the position of the ENEE labor union leadership that claims that the workers must be paid due benefits, President Callejas said:

[Callejas] *I was surprised by the ENEE proposal. I did not think that a labor union leadership could represent the workers to such a degree. I think its position is the result of the government's firm decision not to pay employees for days they did not work. This is a general policy that perhaps does not please public, labor union, or other employees, but our position is clear. This is a fair position that prevents strikes that, in the opinion of labor sectors, generate conflicts. This is an unalterable position, as the labor union people would say. We can compensate them in various ways. We have offered them long-term loans, we have proposed that a portion of the loans be paid in cash and the rest with work, and we have proposed that whatever payment they make be used on social programs, but we are going to deduct the days that workers did not work from their paychecks. The government, therefore, after considering the labor union's proposals on salaries and benefits, has sent them to ENEE. I believe that if the labor union is serious, we will accept these proposals.*

President Callejas was asked how much money these benefits represent.

[Callejas] *More than 20 million lempiras.*

Can INEE pay this amount, Callejas was asked, and he responded:

[Callejas] *Yes, INEE can pay the benefits.*

Nicaragua

Chamorro Said Unable To Control Humberto Ortega

PA1209142190 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2322 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro has no power over General Humberto Ortega, because his brother, former President Daniel Ortega, had approved a law before leaving power that gives Humberto absolute power. The only one who can organize the Army is Gen. Ortega, who has been appointed army general for life. According to the law, the post of defense minister is merely symbolic.

According to the same law, Gen. Ortega has the authority to allow any foreign Army to travel across Nicaragua and the authority to send military aid to any foreign country without having to consult with President Chamorro or the National Assembly. President Chamorro cannot appoint or dismiss the Army chief, according to the law, which was approved by Daniel Ortega under the Sandinist regime. The law was not disclosed for several months. Its contents appeared in last February's official gazette, the publishing of which was delayed for several months.

To achieve the country's democratization and economic reactivation—a goal to which the government is committed—such a law must immediately be repealed, according to Dr. Francisco Jose Lainez. If the National Assembly does not have enough votes to repeal the law, we must wait until there is a recess at the assembly and repeal it in the same manner in which it was created, according to Dr. Lainez. The serious thing about the matter is that the law was approved by the negotiators of the Transition Protocol, according to Dr. Francisco Lainez in statements made to journalists this morning.

Deputy Minister Leal Views Security Commission

PA1209145490 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1815 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Report on interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] Nicaragua will participate in the second meeting of the Central American security commission, which was established in accordance with the mandate of the Central American presidents expressed in the Antigua Declaration. Nicaraguan Army Chief General Humberto Ortega is not part of our country's delegation. Deputy Foreign Minister Engineer Ernesto Leal heads the Nicaraguan delegation. Leal is accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock, Army intelligence chief, and Doctor Mauricio Erdocia.

In an exclusive interview granted to this radio station this morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Leal stated that our delegation's main proposal to the security commission, which will meet in San Salvador for two days, is the establishment of the terms that will guide the region's demililtarization. According to our proposal, the demilitarization should begin with an inventory of the size and dimension of each of the Central American armies. Leal added that the inventory would obviously have to be supervised by a control and verification organization similar to the one that oversaw the demobilization of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] members. The verification of the demobilization process established a sound precedent in the world.

Leal said that our country wants this verification process to be similar to the one carried out by UN and OAS observers in the region. Ernesto Leal gave us details of his mission in San Salvador and commented on the results of the Gorbachev-Bush summit held in Helsinki, Finland on Sunday, 9 September. He also commented on the the letter of support for the UN Security Council resolutions sent by the Nicaraguan Government. Let us listen to Deputy Foreign Minister Leal:

[Begin recording] [Leal] The position that Nicaragua will present at the security commission meeting is closely linked to Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's policy and decision to strongly promote and advocate demilitarization in Central America.

We will present a definitive proposal at the meeting. This proposal is basically the beginning of the demilitarization process. We need a departure point to demilitarize the region. Each and every Central American country must conduct an exhaustive inventory of the sizes of their Armed Forces, including the number of infantry troops, tanks, helicopters, Air Force units, etcetera. Our proposal adds that the Armed Forces of each country will conduct the inventories but that obviously those inventories will be verified and controlled by what we call a control and verification commission. The proposal says that the control and verification commission should comprise representatives of the UN and OAS secretaries general.

We will also propose the establishment of cellings on the size of each Central American army. This means that each army should be proportional to the size of its country, its territory, its borders, its population, and its general situation. There should be cellings on the size of our armies, because only then will we be able to say that Central America has attained stability and peace.

We also believe that the control and verification commission should not only verify the inventories but also control the establishment of and compliance with the maximum limits of our armies' sizes. That commission should subsequently verify the reduction of the Central American armies; the reduction of the armies would be a subsequent step.

It is important to mention that the security commission meets every 60 days and no later than every 60 days. This is part of the mandate established by the area presidents. The venue of each meeting is chosen alternately and alphabetically. We held our first meeting in

Costa Rica on 31 July and we are now meeting in El Salvador. The last meeting of this first round will be held in Nicaragua.

I should also state that the active participation of the United Nations and the OAS in the reduction of the Central American armies is important for us because the verification conducted by the UN CIAV [UN International Commission of Support and Verification] and the OAS CIAV had excellent and successful results in Nicaragua during the RN demobilization.

[Reporter] Engineer Leal, will UN and OAS representatives attend this meeting in San Salvador?

[Leal] They have been invited as observers, and they can only act as observers until we make a decision on the composition of the control and verification commission. They have already participated as observers in the meeting in Costa Rica. At that meeting, the United Nations and the OAS presented a report on their responsibilities and limitations. I believe the joint participation of these organizations will have excellent results.

[Reporter] The reduction of the Central American armies is mentioned as if it has already been agreed upon by all the participants in this security commission meeting. Have you taken into account those countries that are still experiencing guerrilla wars, like El Salvador and Guatemala?

[Leal] As you can imagine, we cannot speak of a substantial reduction of the Central American armies as long as there are conflicts in the region. That is why we believe that the countries' internal or foreign problems should be solved through dialogue. Nicaragua is the result of the Esquipulas peace process. Our democratically elected government headed by Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro is a result of the Central American summits. We are a product of the Esquipulas peace process. We firmly believe that problems and conflicts can be solved through dialogue.

As you said, it is very difficult to talk about the reduction of our armies while, for example, El Salvador is experiencing a war between its rebel movement and its Armed Forces. We would be very pleased to see a solution to the Salvadoran conflict. Then we would be able to enter a gradual but fast demilitarization in the region.

[Reporter] Mr. Deputy Foreign Minister, we are surprised to see that General Staff Chief General Humberto Ortega is not part of the Nicaraguan delegation to this meeting. Is there any reason for his absence?

[Leal] Gen. Ortega attended the first meeting held in San Jose, Costa Rica on 31 July. I believe he has other engagements this time and appointed Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock as his representative. In the past, Lt. Col. Wheelock participated in the Contadora meeting and in the Caracas meeting held on 10 December 1987. Wheelock is obviously well informed about the topics that will be discussed at this meeting.

[Reporter] Let us change topics now. Deputy Foreign Minister Leal, Nicaragua sent a letter to the United Nations supporting Kuwait's position in the Middle East conflict. Can you give us more details on this Nicaraguan decision in the light of the Gorbachev-Bush summit held in Helsinki?

[Leal] Nicaragua's internal and foreign policy has never favored invasions. We condemn invasions because we believe that dialogue is the solution to conflicts. We fully support all the UN Security Council decisions and are backing and abiding by them. The results of the Bush-Gorbachev summit in Helsinski shows that the two presidents have practically and tacitly agreed on exhausting diplomatic channels to solve the Iraq-Kuwait problem. The Nicaraguan Government supports the UN Security Council's decisions and insists on the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory.

[Reporter] Thank you very much for your staments, Mr. Deputy Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal. [end recording]

Panama

Government Announces Retirement of 142 Officers

PA1209170890 Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 1638 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Statement issued by Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon, vice president of Panama and government and justice minister, on 12 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] We have decided that 102 officers and noncommissioned officers of the National Police and other services will use up their accumulated vacation time and will then retire. We have also decided that 40 other officers and noncommissioned officers will be asked to use up their accumulated vacation time and will then be given early retirement. As a result of these two decisions, 142 officers and noncommissioned officers of the National Police and other services will be asked to use up their accumulated vacation time and will then retire with 25 years of service or will be given early retirement.

Retiring Officers, New Leadership Listed

PA1209190890 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1716 GMT 12 Sep 90

[All figures as heard]

[Text] Good afternoon listeners. It has been officially announced that 142 Public Force [FP] members were first granted leave and then given retirement. Let me list them for you. There is a list of 102 members who are officers and noncommissioned officers who were sent on vacation and then on retirement. There is another list of officers and noncommissioned officers of the National Police and other services who will go on accrued vacations and then be given early retirement. Of the 142 officers, there are: 20 majors, 15 captains, 28 lieutenants, 59 first lieutenants, 14 sergeants, and two corporals.

These officers include all five lieutenant colonels who will retire. The following is a recording of Government Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon, and then I will provide the list of the higher ranking officers who will retire. First you will hear Arias Calderon:

[Begin Arias Calderon recording] These decisions, especially those which I will announce, have the specific and full authorization of the president of the republic. These decisions were made with the direct cooperation of the personnel of the ministry's top office, especially of those who are accompanying me here. I am referring specifically to Institutional Director for Public Security Ebrahim Asvat and Financial Director for Public Security Raul Arias de Para.

What decisions am I referring to? First, we have decided to send 102 officers and noncommissioned officers of the National Police and other services on accrued vacations and then they will be given retirement. The second decision made was to send another 40 officers and noncommissioned on accrued vacations and then give them early retirement. Because of these two decisions, a total of 142 officers and noncommissioned officers will go on accrued vacations and then retire after 25 years of service or take early retirement.

These officers include all five current lieutenant colonels. These measures include 20 majors, 13 captains, one navy sub-lieutenant, 28 lieutenants, 59 first lieutenants, 14 sergeants, and two corporals. At the end of this news conference, we will give you the list containing the names and ranks of each of these persons, and we will tell you which of the two decisions applies to each individual.

I would also like to announce a third decision. We appointed the leadership of the National Police from the post of deputy director on down. The leadership will include—you will receive the list with the corresponding names—the deputy director, the general inspector, the personnel director, the information and police investigations director, the planning director, the procurement director, and the community affairs director. [end recording]

The names of the lieutenant colonels who will retire after 25 years of service are: Lieutenant Colonel Fernando Quesada, Lieutenant Colonel Gerardo Garcia, Lieutenant Colonel Aristides Valdonedo, Lieutenant Colonel Moises Correa, and Lieutenant Colonel Armando Palacios Gondola.

The following majors will also be retired: Jose Maria Serrano, Fermin Castanedas, Augusto Villalaz, Jaime Benitez, Luis Carlos Samudio, and Nicolas Gonzalez.

The following majors will use up their accrued vacation time and be given early retirment: Jorge Simmons, Jaime Sanjur, Juan A. Guizado M., Marcos Arjona, Edward White, Juan M. Luria, Ricardo Reyes Dutary, Euclides Aguilar, Luis Carlos Delgado, Victor Herrera, Andres Espinoza, Agustin de Gracia, and Miguel Aleman.

We will now give you the new leadership positions of the National Police.

Major Dario Arrue Rios	Deputy Director General
Major Octavio Samudio	Inspector General
Major Marcos Sotomayor	Personnel Director
Captain Miguel A. Nieto	Police Information and Investigations Director
Major Dimas Espinoza	Planning Director
Mr. Virgilio Ramirez	Procurement Director
Major Benito Batista	Community Affairs Director

The chiefs of the police zones are:

Major Ricardo Guardia	Colon
Major Luis Puleio	Veraguas
Major Jose Garavito	Herrera
Captain Milton Castillo	Chiriqui
Major German Pinzon	Cocle
Captain Felix A. Lopez	Los Santos
Major Rodrigo Colon Sanchez	Bocas del Toro
Major Reinaldo Cedeno	Darien
Major Carlos Acosta	Chorrera
First Lieutenant Francisco Gonzalez	San Blas
Captain Humberto Macea W.	Canal Area Police
Major Horley Barrett	Director for Coordination and Liaison with the Canal Area Police
Captain Alberto Soto	Director for the Administration of Protection and Security Equipment
Major Daniel Poveda	Director, Metropolitan Police
Major Guillermo Marcos	Deputy Director, Metropolitan Police
Police Areas:	
Major Jose A. Gomez	Area A
Captain Mariela de Cigarrista	Area B
Captain Alexander Bacis	Area C
Major Cesar Cordero	Area D
Captain Choulipis Carrion	Area E
Captain Secundino Flores	Area F
Captain Javier Licona	Area H [Area letter as heard]

These were the retirement and early retirement announcements and the new organizational chart of the National Police. This was a report by Carlos Vossman from the Government and Justice Ministry.

Endara on Gas Price Increase, Electoral Tribunal

PA1209203890 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Continuing with his program of visits to the various government institutions to obtain detailed information on the problems that each institution is experiencing, Panamanian President Guillermo Endara visited the Metropolitan Social Security Hospital Complex today. President Endara toured the Social Security Hospital together with the Social Security Institute general director, representatives of the Association of Doctors, Dentists, and Related Professionals of the Social Security Institute, and various advisers. Upon concluding his visit to the hospital complex, President Endara was approached by the press and made the following statements:

[Begin recording] [Endara] We must save the Social Security Institute at all costs. This institution was created by late Panamanian president Arnulfo Arias. It will commemorate its 50th anniversary next year. Our goal—and I mean the goal of the president and of all Panamanians—for next year should be to save this institution. This institution should be sound next year when it will commemorate its 50th anniversary. My government took over a bankrupt Social Security Institute. If we had consulted with financial experts, they would have told us to close down the institute. The Social Security Institute is a very dear institution to the Panamanian people.

[Reporter] Mr. President, are your visits to the various government institutions similar to those conducted by late president Arnulfo Arias?

[Endara] Dr. Arnulfo Arias used to visit hospitals at 0700. Unlike other visits I have made, which started at 0800 or 0830, depending on the time the institution opened, I wanted to arrive here at 0700 as a way of honoring Dr. Arias.

[Reporter] During your political campaign, your ticket frequently criticized the gasoline taxes that the previous government imposed. Why is your government going to adopt similar measures now?

[Endara] I would like to hear exactly what we said during our campaign in that regard. If I remember correctly, I never referred to the gasoline tax during our campaign. I must tell you something else. There will be an increase in gasoline prices because of events that are taking place very far from Panama. By virtue of the supply and demand law, when the supply lowers and the demand remains unchanged, prices increase. That is an economic law that we cannot control here in Panama. We can only suffer its consequences.

The gasoline tax is part of what the Panamanian Government uses to provide its services. If we cut that tax, the government services will be inevitably affected. We have not yet made a decision on this. We will soon hold a cabinet meeting, and I am sure that we will examine all possible options. However, I must be frank. I could be demagogic right now and say: No, there will not be an increase in gasoline prices. By saying that, I would win the people's favor right now. The truth is different from that. I cannot hide the truth. The truth is that gasoline prices will go up, but not because we want that to happen. We definitely do not want to increase those prices because we know that the increase will bring problems for the Panamanian people and the government. However, we must be truthful. We have to tell you that gasoline prices will increase because international oil prices are increasing.

[Reporter] Mr. President, regarding the composition of the Electoral Tribunal, some groups have criticized the current government, as they criticized the previous one, for appointing personal friends of government leaders to public posts.

[Endara] The three people who have been appointed to the Electoral Tribunal are first-rate citizens, and no doubt can be cast on their honesty. The Panamanian people trust these three individuals because they have a clean past. The fact that they are politicians is a contribution rather than an obstacle because politicians fight for and defend their views. There is no more comfortable and less patriotic position than that of the apolitical individual who refuses to get involved and struggles to remain above the country's problems. Politicians are at the service of the people. They struggle and confront problems. The fact that they are politicians is an asset and not a disadvantage.

[Reporter, interrupting] Is this good for the country?

[Endara] I would have never thought of appointing apolitical individuals to the Electoral Tribunal, because they lack the courage to confront problems.

[Reporter] Is this healthy for the country, Mr. President?

[Endara] Yes, very healthy. It is extremely healthy to have such worthy, honest, and respected people as Electoral Tribunal members. It is extremely healthy. It would have been a huge mistake to appoint apolitical individuals to those posts. [end recording]

Labor Party Communique; 15 Sep Meeting Called

PA1209171890 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Sep 90 pp 1-A, 2-A

[Communique issued by Arturo Diez, national secretary for organization of the Panamanian Labor Party, in Panama City on 10 September]

[Text] Communique from the Secretariat for Organization

Inasmuch as:

1. Article 28 of the party statutes tasks the Secretariat for Organization with organizing the party elections, the meetings of the National Directorate, and the National Convention;

2. A group of National Directors, empowered by the law and by Articles 14, 16, and 17 have issued a call for a meeting of National Directors on 15 September and this call has been confirmed by the Secretariat for Organization;

3. The National Executive Council, which is recognized by the Electoral Tribunal, is required to preside over the meeting of the National Directorate, and, according to Articles 21 and 22, the president and vice presidents of the party, together with the secretary general, preside over the meetings of the National Direcorate as well as the National Convention.

Article 21. The president's functions are: subparagraph a) To preside over, together with the secretary general, the National Convention and the meetings of the National Directorate and the National Executive Council.

Article 22. The vice presidents' functions are: subparagraph a) to fill in for the president's temporary absences, in hierarchical order.

4. According to Article 15, only those members who are recognized by the Electoral Tribunal will be admitted to the meetings of the National Directorate. Alternate members may replace the principal members only if their appointment has been recorded in the party register kept at the Electoral Tribunal and they have been informed of this in a note signed by party officials.

5. This secretariat is accepting suggestions and draft resolutions for this meeting.

6. Nominations for national director should conform to the requirements of Article 15, and—as per article 18—only members of the National Directorate may be appointed to the National Executive Council.

7. According to the register of the Electoral Tribunal, the members of the PALA [Panamanian Labor Party] National Directorate are:

Jose Antonio Alessandria, Jack I. Cardoze, Ramon Sieiro, Jose del C. Paredes, Arturo Marquines, Simon Melais, Samuel Arturo Diez, Ricardo Franco Aguilar, Azael Vargas, Antonio G. Alessandria, Milton Vargas, Carlos Clement, Arturo McGowen, Mario B. Perez, Walter Coriat, Segundo A. Garzon, Antonio Cardona Mas, Luis A. Sandoval, Juan A. Medrano, Abdiel Cano, Nestor Tomas Guerra, Luis de Leon, Jorge A. Fernandez, Alejandro Vernaza, Iturbides Gonzalez, Cesar Montenegro, Luis Castro, Franklin Raymores, Jose del C. Alvarado, Luis Rodriguez, Meliton Sanchez, Gabriel A. Arias, Esther R. de Solis, Leon Emilio Halohen, Ricardo A. Paniza, Jose G. MacKenzie, Roberto Barragan, Otto Carrizo, Jose Maria Herrera, Jr., Alberto Velasquez, Dalys Ochoa, Alfonso Montoya, Reinaldo Lewis, Nicolas Alvarado, Guillermo Dominguez, Ascario Morales, Juan A. Medrano, Alonso Velarde, Abraham Ellis, Marcelo Perez, Raul Taboada, Jeremias A. Evans, Ramon Cardoze, Jose Torres N., Abdiel A. Abrego, Paulino Romero, Humberto de Leon, Manuel S. Valderrama, Ramon del Rio, Jose Maria Redondo, Jose M. Rincon, Mari Loo, Jorge E. Matos, Maruja Bravo Dutary, Marcelino de Obaldia, Carlos Afu, Luis Ramos, Daniel E. Nieto C., Osvaldo Eraso C., Nivia Espinosa, Justo F. Palacios S., Nestor Delgado, Carlos Sinisterra, Aurelio Linero, Victor M. Casanova, Emma de Urrunaga, Demetrio Decerega, Eduardo J. de Obaldia, Felix Lezcano, Alberto Carrera, Maximiliano Hidalgo, Rogelio Thirwall, Alvaro Perez, Alvaro Miranda, Gustavo A. Quintero, Manuel Len M., Evilma Bazan, Felix Tejeira, Ramiro A. Zuniga, Sergio Quiros, Jose Ramon Garcia, Jose Mateo, Francisco Harmodio Icaza, Juvenal Saucedo, Ramon A. Collado, Garetrudis Sire, Vanessa M. de Boya, Demetrio Athanasiades, Ramiro Pinzon, Casimiro Vasquez, Otilio Miranda, Carlos G. Quiroz, Ubaldino Ortiz, Danaiel Nota, Carlos Ruiz Valdes, Cesar A. Martans V., Virgilio Chen, Florencio Asprilla Ch., Aurelio Andrion, Gilberto Soto, Enrique Victoria A., Gustavo N. Collado, Rolando Anguizola, Argenida de Barrios, Julio E. Harris, Manuel Donato Jimenez, Julio E. Palacios R., Victor Chiari, Luis E. Ortiz, Rogelio Castillo, Luis A. Nunez, Julio C. Shaik, Luis F. Arias, Eric Alvarez, Armando Aizpurua, Rene Bultron, Mario Echeverria, Eliseo Villarreal, Rickey Fenell, Jose Dutary, Atenogenes Cespedes, Zacarias Basso, Ruben Galvez, Domingo Cordoba, Jose Abel Dominguez, Jaime Bravo, Socrates Solanilla, Darma de Pocasangre, Jaime A. Medrano, Florencio de Leon, Cesar de Obaldia, Heriberto Martinez, Mariano Quintero, Pedro Coparropa, Adilio de Gracia, Enrique Chifundo, Alexander Francois, Ranulfo Vargas, Silverio de Gracia, and Maximo Luque Jr.

Consequently, this secretariat encourages all the members of the National Directorate to heed the call to this meeting so that we may face the problems of the nation together.

Arturo Diez

National Secretary for Organization

Panama City, 10 September 1990

Gilberto Guardia Confirmed as PCC Administrator

PA1209170790 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Late this afternoon the U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed the appointment of Panamanian Gilberto Guardia Fabrega to the position of new Panama Canal Commission [PCC] administrator. He became the first Panamanian citizen ever to hold this job. Consequently, the U.S. Senate complies with the Panama Canal treaties, which were negotiated in 1977 by General Omar Torrijos and former U.S. President James Carter and which were ratified one year later. The Panama Canal Treaties provide for the return of the canal to Panamanian hands by 31 December 1999. The Government of President Guillermo Endara nominated Gilberto Guardia Fabrega for the post. The U.S Senate in Washington unanimously and without a debate confirmed Guardia's appointment late this afternoon.

Argentina

Minister's Comments 'Concern' Italian Government

PY1209142690 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1510 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Sep (DYN)—The Argentine Government today formally explained to the Italian Foreign Ministry the comments made by Public Works and Services Minister Roberto Dromi. The Argentine "great respect" for Italy was conveyed. This is probably one of the most serious consequences of the controversial comments made by Dromi before the Bicameral Privatization Committee.

Foreign Minister Cavallo and Argentine Ambassador to Italy Carlos Ruckauf met today with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis who expressed his government's "concern" over Dromi's statement. Dromi labeled relations with Italy as "nauseating" ["vomitivas"] and accused Italy of trying "to blackmail" Argentina.

Cavallo and Ruckauf confirmed today that they met with de Michelis on the express instructions of President Carlos Menem to convey that Dromi's comments "do not reflect the feelings of the Argentines, and even less" the feelings of the president.

Ruckauf said that Dromi's comments were secretly recorded and that they have had great repercussions in Italy and have caused "great concern" among Italian officials who summoned him to explain.

This uncomfortable situation has apparently been overcome following today's meeting with De Michelis.

Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez publicly responded yesterday for the first time to Dromi's accusations by saying that "under no circumstances" does he share the view that Argentina is "kneeling" before its external creditors. He said that, on the contrary, "they are supporting us."

Gonzalez also said that he is proud to be a "public accountant," referring to Dromi's comment that Gonzalez as "a public accountant without political vision." Gonzalez said that time will tell about the "political vision."

Nothing is yet known about the investigation into the person who secretly recorded Dromi's comments before the bicameral committee on 28 August.

Chamber of Deputies President Alberto Pierri at 1500 today will hold a secret meeting with congressmen of the bicameral committee to study information leaks.

Senator Liliana Gudurlich de Correa who heads the committee said today that she "really regrets" the secret recording event "because it is a regrettable and sad issue in Argentine politics." She added that she has "no idea" who was responsible for the recording.

President Menem Greets Chilean Counterpart

PY1309025090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1630 GMT 12 Sep 90

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Sep (DYN)—President Carlos Menem sent greetings to his Chilean counterpart Patricio Aylwin on the occasion of the latter's visit to Argentina's Jubany Antarctic Base.

The message, which was sent through Marambio Base on the instruction of Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo, states:

"I take the opportunity of your visit to Argentina's Lieutenant Jubany Antarctic Base to welcome you, and to reiterate the will of the Argentine Government and people to jointly achieve tasks in the Antarctic.

"This fraternal task, the message added, will surely benefit the two countries' common objectives in the region, which have been already expressed in the joint declaration on the Antarctic and we signed in Santiago on 29 August."

Telephone Workers Lift 10-Day Strike

PY1209123290 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0230 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The telephone workers strike has been lifted. Worker members of the Buenos Aires city branch of the FOETRA [Federation of Telephone Workers of the Argentine Republic] have resumed work following their 10-day strike. Those workers who were fired have not been reinstated.

FOETRA-Buenos Aires leaders have made it clear that the plenary meeting of delegates called off the strike without setting any deadline for resuming the strike.

Regarding the fired workers, Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] trustee Maria Julia Alsogaray has made it clear that their situation will be reviewed as soon as reports on the status of Entel buildings are received.

Monsignor Rodolfo Bufano and FOETRA Secretary General Hector Esquivel have met at the San Justo bishopric. Church sources said that the FOETRA trade union leader emphasized that they trust Bufano's negotiations and that Bufano has not failed them at all.

Illegal Operation of Television Channels Reported

PY1209172090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2007 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Sep (TELAM)—After meeting with President Carlos Menem at Government House today, Alejandro Massot, head of the Association of Argentine Television and Radio Stations (ATA), said

that the president "has promised" to investigate the charges that some 50 television channels are illegally operating."

Massot told journalists that he conveyed to the president his "concern" of the appearance of those illegal channels, "which are creating the same irregular situation that has for a long time affected the radio broadcasting sector."

He admitted that the appearance of those stations "has been caused by the fact that society is not satisfied." He objects to the fact that "this should result in the illegal use of the few available frequencies."

According to Massot, Menem promised to consider the issue and to issue instructions to the appropriate organs, especially to the federal committee for broadcasting (Comfer) and to the communications undersecretariat.

On behalf of the Business Commission of Independent Mass Media (CEMCI) [Comision Empresaria de Medios de Comunicacion Independientes], Massot invited the president to attend the opening ceremony of the annual CEMCI meeting, on a date that has not yet been set.

Massot was accompanied by Comfer chairman Leon Guinsburg, and communications under secretary Raul Otero reported that Menem has accepted the invitation.

Bolivia

Papers React to U.S. Report on Corruption

PY1209234090

[Editorial Report] La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish on 4 and 5 September carries reactions to a report by the U.S. House of Representatives Government Operations Committee charging Bolivian police and Armed Forces with corruption and insufficient antidrug trafficking efforts.

On 4 September the paper carries on page one a 650-word article in which the Bolivian Special Antinarcotics Force [Felcn] points out the inexact aspects of the U.S. Congress report on Bolivian antidrug trafficking efforts, labeling the report "insufficient and erroneous." The Felcn command states: "'According to our statistics, which were even confirmed by a judge, from August 1989 to January 1990, 5,272,454 grams of drugs were confiscated, which means more than five tons. During that same period, 856 drug laboratories and 1,720 coca maceration pits were discovered and destroyed, 928 antidrug operations were carried out, and eight planes of different makes were confiscated for transporting drugs.'" The Felcn states that the U.S. "report shows inexact knowledge of the structure of command and responsibilities created in Bolivia to fight drug trafficking. 'We have clearly established that the National Police and Armed Forces do not directly participate in antidrug trafficking operations, with the aim of preserving their international prestige and image, since we understand that this is a new kind of crime unheard of in the history of our nations, with serious consequences for national politics.'"

On 5 September, the paper carries a 250-word article on page one, quoting Minister without Portfolio Guillermo Fortun Suarez. He says: "'We believe that the last word about this subject was given by Vice President Dan Quayle when he was here; we think that any other report is disqualified.'" The minister adds that "there is no need to issue an official document on the subject."

Air Force Lacks Funds To Buy Arms, Equipment

PY1209023290 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Division General German Callejas, the Air Force commander in chief, has stated that the institution will not receive new arms or equipment because the National Treasury lacks the funds to purchase them.

[Begin Callejas recording] Unfortunately, resources are being used for other priorities within the institution. This is happening with the Air Force. I do not know about the other branches of the Armed Forces. At the Air Force we are trying to use the money in areas we consider to be priority for the operation of the institution. We cannot think of new equipment unless it is through donations or the goodwill of countries who might want to cooperate with us. [end recording]

Cocaine Reportedly Bartered for Arms

PY1209160290 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1220 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] La Paz, 12 Sep (REUTER)—A high-ranking government source yesterday said that drug-trafficking organizations operating in Bolivia are bartering locally produced cocaine for arms from Argentina and Brazil.

"We have reports that cocaine is being bartered for arms, especially in [words indistinct].

According to a social defense undersecretariat report, over the past 12 months the police have confiscated 78 firearms from drug traffickers. An antidrug force officer told REUTER that "more than 20 of the firearms are Argentine-made."

"We presume that a similar quantity of arms has been introduced through the Brazilian border," he added.

According to information previously released by the Bolivian antidrug police, Bolivian cocaine is being taken to Europe, Asia, and the United States through networks operating in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile.

The Bolivian police sources said that those three countries are the main suppliers of the chemicals that drug traffickers use for producing cocaine hydrochloride and cocaine sulfate.

"We are concerned about the cocaine-for-arms barter," the high-ranking official said.

Over the past few weeks, members of the special antidrug force detected the sale of modern [words indistinct] in the eastern city of Santa Cruz.

"We know that M-16 rifles are being sold for $1,800 each," the official said.

The Bolivian antidrug force also has information on the presence of Colombians in localities like Santa Ana del Yacuma, San Joaquin, and San Ramon, in the eastern Department of Beni, and on the presence of Brazilians in Guayaramerin, the source added.

"They have links with drug trafficking, and their presence is increasingly mysterious," he stressed.

Coca Plantations Threaten Forest Reserves

PY1309031490 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 6 Sep 90 p 6

[Excerpts] More than 15,000 hectares of forest in the Isiboro Secure Reserves, on the border of Cochabamba and El Beni Departments, have been removed and replaced by coca plantations.

Bolivian ecologists have said that if this situation continues, there could be an imbalance in the microclimate both in Bolivia and in adjacent regions.

They added that the government should take urgent measures to preserve forest reserves in the area as part of the policy of "ecological protection" formulated by the executive branch early in 1990.

It is estimated that over 8,000 settlers, most of them from the Chapare Region, have thus far established themselves in the reserves.

The League for the Defense of the Environment has said: "Drug traffickers, ranchers, and wood exploitation companies are forcing the tribes living in the Isiboro Secure Reserves to go into the forest interior." [passage omitted]

Ecologist sources reported that the Isiboro Secure ecological reserves are being threatened by coca growers and drug traffickers who have installed several laboratories that are protected by difficult access to the forest.

January-August Accumulated Inflation Reported

PY1209182290 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 4 Sep 90 p 6

[Summary] The National Statistics Institute, INE, has reported a 1.1-percent rise in the August consumer price index, bringing the accumulated January-August inflation rate to 7.27 percent.

Brazil

Collor To Send Personal Message to Husayn

PY1209153490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1408 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Brasilia, 12 Sep (EFE)—Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello will send a personal message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn requesting that the more than 270 Brazilian citizens who have been held in Iraq since the invasion of Kuwait on last 2 August be allowed to leave Iraq.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek said in a news conference today that Collor's message "urges Husayn to comply with international law," and hopes that no factor outside these rules will prevent the immediate exit of the Brazilian citizens.

The message will be taken to Husayn by a special mission of three Brazilian diplomats: Antonio Amaral de Sampaio, chief of the Middle East Department of the Foreign Ministry; Paulo Tarso Flexa de Lima, current Brazilian ambassador to London and former minister [title as received]; and Sergio Tutikian, counselor.

By sending this message through a special mission, Brazil seeks a solution to a problem that began more than a month ago and which is creating an embarrassing situation for the Brazilian Government on account of the pressure exerted on the Brazilians and their relatives held in Iraq.

"The situation will only be solved if our president comes here to directly speak with Saddam Husayn," Nelson Medina told an O GLOBO newspaper correspondent. Medina, a soccer coach, is one of the Brazilian citizens confined in a desert camp, 165 km from Baghdad.

The Brazilian Government's desire to show that progress has been made in this situation led Foreign Minister Rezek to announce last Sunday that 146 Brazilians had been authorized to leave Iraq, a fact which has subsequently been denied and that only showed the stagnant state of negotiations with Iraq.

Although the Foreign Ministry has so far avoided openly criticizing the attitude of Baghdad, the exit of the Brazilian citizens has been prevented by the conditions imposed by Husayn's demand that the contracts of the companies working in Iraq be completed.

The special diplomatic mission will depart for Baghdad on 14 September. They will also carrying a personal message from Minister Rezek for Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz asking him for a quick solution to the conflict.

3 Women Granted Visas To Leave

PY1209162890 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Three Brazilian women have obtained visas to leave Iraq. Two are diplomats' maids, and the third is the wife of a worker with the Mendes Junior Construction Company.

The exit of more Brazilians from Iraq will be negotiated by a diplomatic mission that is on its way to Baghdad.

In the opinion of Itamaraty spokesman Jose Vicente Pimentel, the mission sent to Baghdad might resolve the deadlock, considering the personal experience of Ambassador Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, Ambassador Paulo Sampaio, and counselor Sergio Tutikian, the Brazilian consul in Paraguay who happens to speak the dialect spoken in the area where the Brazilians are residing in Iraq. At this time, there are 187 Brazilians still in Iraq.

There are two Brazilian Air Force planes ready to bring home the Brazilians. Itamaraty has announced that they will fly only when the exit visas have been definitely granted, and stressed that the government's firm intention is to watch over the security of Brazilian citizens abroad.

Firm Agrees to Iraqi Terms

PY1309021090 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The Mendes Junior Construction Company is negotiating with Iraq on the exit of the Brazilians who still remain in the company's camp in the desert.

The Mendes Junior Construction Company has informed Itamaraty that it has already sent the appropriate instructions to the Mendes Junior Construction Company representative in Baghdad.

The Mendes Junior Construction Company accepts the conditions imposed by the Iraqi Government to suspend work contracts.

Itamaraty believes that now the Brazilians will be released.

The Brazilian Air Force airplane that will go to Iraq to bring back the Brazilians has already been activated and should depart between tomorrow and the day after tomorrow.

A diplomatic mission, which is scheduled to arrive in Baghdad next Saturday [15 September], will be maintained because more than 100 Brazilians will still remain in Iraq.

[Begin Foreign Ministry spokesman Jose Vicente Pimentel recording] A mission made up of Ambassadors Paulo Tarso and Antonio Amaral Sampaio and Counselor Sergio Tutikian will still go to Baghdad because even after the Brazilians from the Mendes Junior Company are released, other groups of Brazilians will still be there.

The information released by the company is good news. It confirms our understanding that both the Brazilian companies and the Brazilian Government agree on giving priority to the security of Brazilians. [end recording]

Chile

Pinochet To Repeat Coup if Circumstances Reoccur

PY1309032490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0226 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Santiago, 11 Sep (EFE)—Interior Ministry Under Secretary Belisario Velasco reported today that the government has asked him to conduct an investigation of those Carabineros charged with abuses against leftist demonstrators who commemorated the death of President Salvador Allende 17 years ago with black balloons. [passage omitted]

A group of young people also paraded in the eastern sector of Santiago carrying the Italian fascist flag and repeating the Nazi greeting, a gesture that was seen a few hours before in front of General Augusto Pinochet's residence. Pinochet is current Army commander, a post he will hold until 1997.

Pinochet received the compliments of his followers in his house, and after meeting with leaders of the rightist Independent Democratic Union (UDI), he said that if circumstances were the same as those in 1973, he would not hesitate to repeat another coup d'etat. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Views Remarks

PY1309033290 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss has said that the report that Carabineros committed abuses at a cemetery during a ceremony commemorating the 11 September 1973 events is a difficult situation to solve. [passage omitted]

When asked about the government's opinion of General Pinochet's remarks that if circumstances were the same of those of 1973, he would repeat the coup, the interior minister said the most significant and important aspect of it all is that the circumstances not be repeated. For this reason, we are making a tremendous and notable effort to prevent this from happening, he said.

Krauss concluded by saying that President Aylwin has accepted an invitation to attend the traditional Te Deum sponsored by Evangelical churches to recall Army glories. The Te Deum will be said at the Santiago Pentecostal Methodist church.

Disarmament Group Holds Rally at U.S. Embassy

PY1209192490 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The Chilean Committee for Disarmament and Denuclearization this morning staged a demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy to repudiate the presence in territorial waters of the vessels that will take part in the Unitas maneuvers. According to the committee leaders, these vessels are equipped with nuclear weapons.

Manuel Diaz, executive director of the committee, asked the government authorities to explain this fact that threatens the country's ecology.

[Begin Diaz recording] The fleet as a whole carries more than 20 weapons in addition to the submarine's nuclear reactor. In view of this we request that the government, the political parties, Chilean personalities, and Armed Forces take a position regarding the presence of nuclear weapons and reactors in Chilean territory. [end recording]

Diaz stated that on several occasions the vessels involved in the UNITAS maneuvers have suffered accidents, a fact which has been constantly denied by the U.S. authorities.

Diaz also criticized the U.S. policy to neither confirm or deny the existence of nuclear weapons in the vessels sailing through Chile. Diaz stated that the government's passive attitude contradicts the principles of disarmament and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Iraq Allegedly Withholding Seven Citizens

PY1209161690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Amman, Jordan, have stated that the Iraqi Government is holding seven Chilean citizens who work for the Cardoen arms enterprise in an attempt to get the enterprise to fully honor the pending contracts signed with Iraq.

According to reports, on 5 August these seven Chileans unsuccessfully tried to cross the Iraqi border with 24 other Chileans who did manage to cross the (?Rashen) border pass where they were met by Chilean diplomatic representatives in Jordan.

The same diplomatic sources asserted that the Chilean embassy has exhausted every possible diplomatic channel in their attempt to rescue this group, which is headed by Cardoen head engineer (Carlos Surmann).

The reports state that in view of the failure of every diplomatic effort, the solution will only be possible through direct negotiations between the Iraqi Government and the Cardoen enterprise.

Aylwin Sends Message on Return From Antarctic

PY1209174490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Upon his return to Punta Arenas city from his visit to the Teniente Marsh base in the Chilean Antarctic, President Patricio Aylwin sent a message of unity and confidence to all Chilean citizens.

President Aylwin explained that he decided to make this trip on the anniversary of the military coup, because he believes that instead of recalling events that divide the Chilean people one must promote whatever unites us. He said that instead of looking to the past we must look to the future.

At approximately 1030 [1430 GMT] President Aylwin is scheduled to return to Santiago from Punta Arenas.

Yesterday the chief of state and his retinue visited the Teniente Marsh base in the Chilean Antarctic and overflew by helicopter the King George Island.

Before going from Punta Arenas to the Antarctic, Patricio Aylwin recalled that in a few days Chile will celebrate 50 years since late President Pedro Aguirre Cerda included the Antarctic as part of the Chilean territory.

Aylwin said that neither Chile nor his government intend to review the Antarctic Treaty.

Although journalists asked his opinion on the significance of 11 September, the president made no comment.

Consultation Agreement With USSR Signed

PY1209165090 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 Sep 90 p C4

[Text] Chile and the Soviet Union yesterday issued a joint communique saying that the two countries hope to promote a political dialogue at the highest level through the creation of a mechanism for consultation between the two countries' foreign ministries. The document was disseminated by the Foreign Ministry.

The agreement was closed during the visit to Moscow by Foreign Under Secretary Edmundo Vargas. He is the first Chilean Government official to visit the USSR since the resumption of diplomatic relations last 11 March.

Vargas was accompanied by International Economic Relations Director Augusto Aninat and a group of businessmen.

The under secretary and his entourage were received by Soviet Presidential Council Member E.M. Primakov. The Chilean delegation also met with the vice ministers of foreign relations and international economic relations.

The communique says that the meetings were conducted in a climate of friendship and full understanding. The parties exchanged opinions on several current issues, including the strengthening of the role of the United Nations as an instrument for guaranteeing peace and security.

The officials also expressed their satisfaction over the resumption of diplomatic relations and stressed the importance of bilateral cooperation in seeking solutions to problems affecting international peace and security.

The parties also agreed on the need to close a cooperation agreement to fight drug trafficking.

Four Bombs Explode; One Bomb Deactivated

PY1209221490 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] According to police sources, there were five bomb attacks in Chile yesterday.

At 2350 a bomb containing 400 grams of dynamite went off in La Quintana neighborhood. The explosion significantly damaged a street lamp.

At the same time, another bomb containing 500 grams of ammonium nitrate fuel oil [ANFO] blasting agents and 150 grams of [word indistinct] was planted at the base of a street lamp on San Pablo Street. A timely warning by area inhabitants allowed members of the GOPE [Special Police Operations Group] to deactivate the bomb.

The explosion of a bomb containing 300 grams of ANFO blasting agents and 80 grams of (?idrex) in Talcahuano destroyed the windows of a Salvation Army Church and a (Tupahue) childrens' home.

A similar attack was perpetrated against a Mormon temple located on 292 Riquelme street, in Valdivia. The explosion damaged one of the temple's windows.

Last, police sources stated that a group of unidentified individuals detonated two bombs in Coihaique on the Aysen-Coihaique electric line. The explosion caused significant damage but power was not cut.

Trade Balance Position to August Reported

PY1209180490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2341 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Summary] The Chilean Central Bank has reported that this year's trade balance position through 15 August registered a surplus of $1,019,400,000. This is the difference between exports worth $5,307.600,000 and imports worth $4,288,200,000. It further reported that foreign reserves on 31 August totaled $4,372,500,000.

* Errazuriz Seen as Challenge to Center-Right

90SM0228D Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish 1 Aug 90 pp 7-9

[Article by Alejandro Dario Molina: "The Errazuriz 'Phenomenon'"]

[Text] They are meeting in a large room that during the campaign served as the palatial office of presidential candidate Francisco Javier ("Fra-Fra") Errazuriz in the "Casa de la Victoria" opposite the former National Congress. The table at which the officers are seated is no less impressive. Their president, former congressional candidate Jorge Gomez Balmaceda, reports to the directors and several regional delegates on the legal formalities that culminated in the registration of the Center Center Union (UCC) with the Electoral Service.

Almost all of those in attendance are unknowns. Only the face of Waldemar Cortes, a leader of the teachers union, is familiar.

One delegate asks for the floor: "Mr. President, as the representative of the fifth region, I am proud to hand in 2,100 more signatures and to tell you that we're less than 4,000 away from legalizing the party in Valparaiso," he says in a solemn tone. He then walks stiffly to the front with a folder in his hand. All applaud enthusiastically.

Continuing Support

These are the first unsteady steps of the UCC, an emerging party. The acronym sounds whimsical. And it would be the acronym of just another movement among the many that have proliferated in recent years, were it not for the fact that behind it lies once again the figure of Francisco Javier Errazuriz and the more than one million votes that he got in the recent presidential election.

His ongoing support, although not enough to put him in La Moneda, was reflected in the opinion poll on potential 1994 presidential candidates that the Center of Public Studies (CEP) conducted last June with the Adimark company.

The poll, which called for spontaneous mentions without a list of names from which to choose, had Errazuriz in second place, with 14.9 percent, behind Socialist leader Ricardo Lagos (16.1) but ahead of Christian Democrat Senator Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle and far above former candidate Hernan Buchi (6.9), the president of Christian Democracy, Andres Zaldivar (6.4), and Senator Sergio Onofre Jarpa (3.6), the leader of National Renewal (RN).

Oddly enough, if we add up the percentages of the potential presidential candidates who are associated with the governing coalition (Lagos, Frei, Zaldivar, Valdes, and Foxley, the latter two with less than three percent), the total is less than 42 percent, far below the 54 percent that Aylwin got in December and even farther below his administration's current popularity rating, as 62.8 percent support the president and 73.6 percent approve of his performance in office.

In the case of the center-right opposition (Buchi, Jarpa, and Sebastian Pinera, who has 1.1 percent, plus General Pinochet's 2.3), the situation is much more disproportionate. The four together total just 12.9 percent, whereas Buchi alone got 30 percent of the vote in December.

In contrast to the popularity of Lagos and Frei, who are engaged in daily political activities and have the backing of the Coalition's two major factions, the support for Errazuriz does not come from any partisan force. He retains the solid 15 percent of the vote that he got in December without having lifted a finger or made any news. The "pure" Errazuriz backers have just recently started grouping together around the incipient UCC. And the others, those who supported "Fra-Fra" out of pragmatism or because of the circumstances and who

have now distanced themselves from the man, have set up shop under the name of the National Democracy Party of the Center, which is also just forming.

Errazuriz' Problem

Given the numbers from CEP-Adimark, whose pre-election polls never gave Errazuriz more than 11 percent, we can conclude objectively that relatively speaking Francisco Javier Errazuriz is in the best shape of potential presidential candidates today. It bears asking, then, what his real popularity rating would be if he had behind him a large, well-organized party and a constant presence on the political scene.

Nevertheless, his enviable position on the political spectrum could again have a paradoxical and unfortunate counterpoint, as became clear on 14 December last.

Whereas the candidacies of Aylwin and Buchi emerged from a debate among major political parties, Errazuriz' candidacy arose as a solitary, individual bid. Although it is true that his decision to run was auspiciously received by independent voters, it is no less true that the three months during which he was convalescing from a heart attack seemed to scuttle his ambitions. When he reappeared in the presidential race, he regained ground, but most people were still convinced that he could not help coming in third, that a vote for him was a wasted vote. He did not have the time to demonstrate the sort of strength that would have enabled him to sit down with the center-right and talk over the possibility of having only one person face off against the Coalition candidate.

Patricio Aylwin, in contrast, represented the culmination of a huge and very well-planned effort by a coalition of 17 parties and movements that had already united to win the plebiscite over Pinochet in 1988.

More than the candidate's relative charisma, what was decisive was the opposition parties. They were able to sell a political program directed towards our society's most perceptible problems, because it was more credible to lower middle-income sectors. They did so in a tightly structured, well-funded campaign whose language was well coordinated by the political figures running for the House and Senate. The best ideas do not always win out in the political arena; the ones that are presented and defended best do.

Errazuriz, in contrast, had shaky partisan support and lacked big-name politicians who could appear at his side. Now, however, the UCC is betting that the mistakes will be corrected and that "Fra-Fra" will have "the biggest party in Chile" when he does battle in the next presidential election.

The Errazuriz "phenomenon" is beginning to worry the center-right. National Renewal more than the UDI [Independent Democratic Union]. This stands to reason, inasmuch as RN has made public its intention to get one of its people into La Moneda. As an RN source told ERCILLA: "Errazuriz is going to vie with us for the centrist vote, which RN is after as part of its new strategy. So, this time he can't be ignored, and when the time comes, he will have to be seated at the bargaining table. To defeat the common 'enemy' we will have to seek a single candidate, without ruling out the UDI. We acknowledge that "Fra-Fra" could be a good electoral card, but it seems that he likes to keep the ball himself and play the game alone."

[Box, pp 8-9]

Jorge Gomez Balmaceda: "There Are a Million of Us"

"We will be the biggest party in Chile... What other movement has a million votes to start with?"

The assertion and the question come from Jorge Gomez Balmaceda, the president of the recently formed UCC, which seeks to bring together under its banners the people who voted for Francisco Javier Errazuriz. Gomez Balmaceda was an unknown until the recent congressional elections, although he has the boldness of a battle-hardened politician and could become a major figure, depending on how his group performs. He is a farmer, but mentions that he studied law at the University of Chile and also medicine in Buenos Aires, where he got a degree in hypnotherapy.

Among other activities, he is an official of the Santiago Morning soccer team, which is in the third division, "because their shirts have a V for victory on them." At the 14 December elections he ran for a seat in the Chamber from the 20th district (Estacion Central and Maipu) on the Liberal-Socialist slate, two of the small parties that supported Errazuriz in the presidential race.

"I should have run in the 30th district, which is my own: San Bernardo, Calera de Tango, Buin, and Paine. I would have been the first deputy of the Errazuriz movement. But they asked me to run in the other one...," he explains in a both optimistic and resigned tone.

[ERCILLA] Why didn't the Errazuriz movement elect a single member of Congress, even though it got more than a million votes?

[Gomez Balmaceda] Among other reasons because several candidates should have identified more with the presidential candidate, Francisco Javier Errazuriz, and a lot of people who voted for him did not vote for the people running for Congress. Funding was also inadequate, of course. Errazuriz' candidates were working people, small businessmen, professionals, capable people but unknowns. They were not career politicians backed by big-money election machines.

[ERCILLA] And how are you going to change this picture in the future?

[Gomez Balmaceda] Through good party organization and with a solid political base, built by the Center Center Union. There was not enough time for this at the past election. Now there is, and we are going to work to make the UCC the biggest party in Chile... What group can say

that it has a million votes to start with?... At the municipal elections, which will surely take place next year, several Errazuriz mayors are going to give us a political presence.

[ERCILLA] You said "Errazuriz mayors." Is this the party that Francisco Javier Errazuriz is backing for his next presidential campaign?

[Gomez Balmaceda] If you mean to say that he created the party and that he is in charge of this, you are wrong... The UCC has emerged spontaneously from the large group of independent, centrist voters who supported neither the continuation of the previous regime nor the coalition of parties dominated by the left. It is in tune with the one million voters whom neither Aylwin nor Buchi could convince but who do believe in Errazuriz, as confirmed by the recent CEP poll on potential presidential candidates in 1994.

[ERCILLA] So then, where does your money come from?

[Gomez Balmaceda] From the contributions of us small businessmen and professionals who sit on the board and the commissions. Francisco Javier helped us out a bit, but that is all.

[ERCILLA] People on the outside can see that the UCC will be the springboard for an Errazuriz candidacy in 1994...

[Gomez Balmaceda] Although we have not spoken about it with him, the party will likely nominate him as its candidate between now and 1993. But our goal is first to strengthen ourselves as a major group that can satisfy the aspirations of those who believe in a free economy that is also, however, socially sensitive.

[ERCILLA] What is the UCC's view of the current administration?

[Gomez Balmaceda] The facts are very clear in this regard. None of the promises that Aylwin made as a candidate and that the Coalition made as the mainstay of his campaign have been kept. The situation of retirees and transients [allegados] has not improved. Specific steps have not been taken to provide health care to the poor. The UF is still a relentless scourge, while the authorities look on passively. And so on and so forth...

* UDI Deputy on Human Rights, Opposition

90SM0228E Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Aug 90 pp d-2, d-3

[Interview with UDI congressman Andres Chadwick by Raquel Correa; place and date not given; first seven paragraphs are EL MERCURIO introduction]

[Text] He speaks like UDI [Independent Democratic Union]: by listing his ideas and never losing the thread. He also dresses in the style of UDI: blue jacket, gray pants, and, like most of his young fellow party members, he feels most comfortable in shirt-sleeves.

Clever and pleasant, he says that they dress like that "because we have few clothes," but he acknowledges the similarities of form and substance that characterize the former trade-union leaders, from their birthplace in Catholic University to their development in the military government.

Andres Chadwick Pinera (34, married to Maria Victoria Costa, four children) belongs to this "caste" of prominent individuals that consists of an ambassador, a bishop, a senator, a mayor, an undersecretary, and a singer. He is a congressman from District 33 (San Francisco de Mostazal, Donihue, Rengo, and Requinoa are among his communities). An attorney and professor of political and constitutional law, he shares his university chair with Jaime Guzman, whom he acknowledges as very influential in his development. His classes are his sole nonpartisan activity. "And the one I like best," he says with a smile on his face, which still shows traces of adolescent acne.

"Julio Dittborn, who is more of a freethinker than you [and Guzman] and is even in favor of divorce, is the president of the UDI. Is this an attempt to give it a new look?"

"No. Julio has personal positions on certain issues on which the party has a definite majority opinion. We are not a church-affiliated party or one that demands slavish obedience, so his ideas cause no trouble."

A full-time politician, when he is not at a session, he is in committee (Constitution, Legislation and Justice, and Human Rights), or at party headquarters on Suecia Street studying bills or visiting his 12 communities... The UDI vice president and member of its political commission says that he decided to run in this district precisely because it is "rural and very poor."

He says that he is motivated mainly by Christian values, both in his love for the law and in his political career.

[Correa] UDI people are, in general, regarded as youths from an intellectual and social elite.

[Chadwick] Many of us have had access to university professional training, but along with this training we have a very strong social commitment that is reflected mainly in our efforts with the poorest sectors.

[Correa] Do these social concerns stem from the time when you were in MAPU [United Popular Action Movement]?

[Chadwick] They stem from a Christian upbringing, from a family atmosphere that gave me these social concerns, which at a given moment were expressed in a left-wing political commitment. I thought that this was the way to resolve the problems of the poor. They were later reflected in my political commitment to the UDI.

[Correa] Do you think that classical liberalism is more Christian than socialism?

[Chadwick] I think that in the long run, yes. If one looks strictly at the results... But classical liberalism has to be given a Christian spirit as well; it cannot be guided just by prescriptions.

[Correa] How does the UDI feel under a democracy?

[Chadwick] Very good.

[Correa] And how did you feel without democracy?

[Chadwick] Very good too. Those of us in the UDI worked in the military government because we realized clearly what its origins and objectives were. We worked to build the democratic system.

[Correa] Is it complicated to be in the opposition under the first democratic government after an authoritarian one?

[Chadwick] It is complicated. Since democratic practices are lacking, being in the opposition is often misunderstood. People think that you are thwarting democracy.

[Correa] Does the fact that Congress is in Valparaiso complicate your task?

[Chadwick] No doubt about it.

[Correa] Would you rather have it in Santiago?

[Chadwick] In order for both Congress and the administration to work best, the seats of the Executive and Legislative branches should obviously be in the same city.

[Correa] When the time comes to vote, what will you do?

[Chadwick] I think that when all is said and done I will vote to keep it in Valparaiso.

[Correa] Is it true that Senator Guzman is in favor of the move to Santiago?

[Chadwick] I think that his position is similar to mine. We have talked it over a lot. Speaking for myself, not for Jaime, I think that in the end I will vote to keep it in Valparaiso, but I am still not sure. I would like it to stay there, but I am not closed to opposing arguments. I think that it is important not to have everything concentrated in Santiago. Moreover, the Congress in Valparaiso has become a sort of standard-bearer for the regions.

Is the Opposition...United?

(According to Deputy Chadwick, relations inside the opposition "are very good."

[Correa] Is the feud over that even caused you to break with National Renewal (RN) on the eve of the plebiscite?

[Chadwick] I think so, from the standpoint of work in the Chamber. The relations between UDI and RN are increasingly positive there, with a very high degree of unity. Being in the opposition has brought us closer together. The points of agreement have outnumbered the differences. One learns to seek common ground, not differences, because this is necessary for our positions. And what started more strongly in the Chamber of Deputies than in other political forums has gradually spread to the Senate and the party officers. If you compare relations today with those of the past, you will conclude that they are very good, though they could be better.

[Correa] National Renewal used to brand your people as being "antidemocratic."

[Chadwick] Being a supporter of a nondemocratic regime does not mean being antidemocratic. You have to understand the foundations, reasons, and objectives of that regime. We were always supporters of the authoritarian regime. We agreed with why it arose, and secondly, with the approach of leading the country towards democracy.

[Correa] How do you feel when some political commentator says: "National Renewal is the most important opposition party."

[Chadwick] Measured in electoral terms, National Renewal is the largest opposition party. We realize that and we are not competing with National Renewal today to be the biggest. We are working to grow and we know that our role as an opposition is significant.

[Correa] If it were up to you, would you join forces again?

[Chadwick] (taking time to answer) I think that important steps have yet to be taken to achieve that. Unity may be a desirable goal, but we do not want to make the same mistakes as in the past.

[Correa] If you had to explain to a foreigner the fundamental difference between UDI and National Renewal, what would you say?

[Chadwick] Basically the UDI is a party with greater ideological depth and loyalty and with a stronger existential tie to low-income sectors than National Renewal.

[Correa] And you demonstrated the first point during the election of officers in Congress, didn't you?

[Chadwick] Of course.

[Correa] Didn't you trade your vote for a "mess of pottage"?

[Chadwick] No. We did so with a very basic goal in mind: to create the conditions so that Congress could operate as harmoniously as possible, which is basic for the start of the democratic process.

[Correa] Does the relationship between the UDI and Pinochet constitute a major difference between National Renewal and your party?

[Chadwick] I think so. Many UDI leaders were involved in the Pinochet government to a greater extent...

[Correa] But you did not have an interior minister, or any minister... Were your people closer to it in spirit?

[Chadwick] It may be that we have a more direct, more emotional personal relationship with Pinochet.

[Correa] Do you miss having Pinochet in La Moneda?

[Chadwick] No, no (laughs). It makes no sense to miss him... We are after something else.

[Correa] And when you hear the word "president," whom do you think of spontaneously?

[Chadwick] Aylwin.

[Correa] And when you hear someone say "Pinochet," how do you see him: in battle dress or wearing the presidential sash?

[Chadwick] That depends. Now, as commander in chief, in military dress. My memories are growing stronger and stronger of his determination to promote a free economy without giving in to pressure groups or being satisfied with modernizing our economy.

[Correa] Why do you remember that?

[Chadwick] Because of the debate on labor legislation and, for example, because of the approach that the minister of Corfo [Production Development Corporation], Rene Abeliuk, is taking on privatizations.

RN Under Allamand

[Correa] What do you think of RN being headed by Andres Allamand, who was one of your group's toughest adversaries when you were a single party?

[Chadwick] That's OK. Given his traits he will no doubt spur RN on to quite dynamic action. Andres Allamand has a major challenge: to give RN activists confidence in whatever political decisions he makes.

[Correa] Don't you think that the rank and file has confidence in him?

[Chadwick] There is more confidence in Jarpa than in Allamand. I think that most people in RN feel better represented by Jarpa's than Allamand's political positions. So his challenge is to follow that tide and show that he is not interested in blurring RN's personality as an opposition party, a personality that Jarpa has given it most clearly.

[Correa] Are you afraid that during this period National Renewal will draw closer to the Coalition than to the UDI?

[Chadwick] That could tend to weaken the position of our political sector.

[Correa] In short, did you feel more at ease with Jarpa as president of RN?

[Chadwick] For reasons of our generation and friendship I feel closer to Allamand's style, but I feel better represented by Jarpa's political position.

Three Stars

[Correa] Do you think that democracy can be efficient?

[Chadwick] Yes.

[Correa] Would you say that it is turning out to be efficient in Chile?

[Chadwick] Yes. Chilean democracy is turning out to be efficient, and it has to because this is the system of government that we wanted to have.

[Correa] What grade would you give General Pinochet as commander in chief from March to the present?

[Chadwick] Three stars. Because he has discharged his office well, and people have to be evaluated in accordance with their circumstances. I think that it was much harder for him than for any other commander in chief.

[Correa] And what grade would you give Aylwin for his relations with Pinochet?

[Chadwick] Three stars too. I think that the Aylwin-Pinochet relationship is one of the things that has been handled the best during this transition. The two are setting a standard, a good example.

[Correa] In spite of certain absences?

[Chadwick] In spite of everything. The absences have been minimal in comparison to the presences...

The New Opposition

[Correa] How constructive would you say the current opposition is?

[Chadwick] Very constructive. First of all, we have supported the administration in everything that we have thought was good, even if it came from the administration. And as for those things on which we have disagreed, we have always been willing to seek paths that will enable us to come to terms. We have engaged in steadfast opposition only when such paths have not been possible.

[Correa] Aside from the understanding on choosing the congressional officers and committees, the UDI has opposed all of the administration's major bills...

[Chadwick] But we have always been willing to talk with the administration, to seek ways that we could agree on those bills, not to oppose them just because.

[Correa] The UDI is opposed to the election of mayors. Is it that you do not want to lose through the ballot box what you won through appointments?

[Chadwick] That is not the reason. We want popular elections of mayors. We think that this is the best system.

[Correa] But when? When it suits you? When the administration has worn itself out?

[Chadwick] It is not that. We do not want the constitution to be subjected to constant or successive amendments. Therefore, before we give our approval to amending the Constitution on the issue of mayors, we want to know what the administration wants in terms of amending the constitution.

[Correa] As a condition for its "yes" vote isn't the UDI saying that the administration must pledge not to propose any more constitutional amendments?

[Chadwick] That is right. If the administration pledges not to propose any other constitutional amendments during this legislative session, we could consider supporting this constitutional amendment and having elected mayors. What we do not want is to open the door to successive constitutional amendments... We want to guarantee the stability of the constitution, which is extraordinarily important for political stability.

[Box, p d-2]

[Correa] You say that besides law you are interested in Christian values, truth, justice. How would you describe the human rights violations that are coming to light?

[Chadwick] I do not try to justify such excesses and I share and respect the grief of the many persons whose human rights were violated. But I think that such situations must be analyzed and understood, for the sake of precise historical justice, while considering the circumstances under which they took place.

[Correa] So, do you condemn the violations "but"?

[Chadwick] I condemn them, but I realize that they occurred, first, under historical circumstances in which it was perhaps unrealistic to demand anything else and, second, because perhaps many of these human rights violations were committed in order to counter terrorist activity.

[Correa] What does the battle against terrorism have to do with executions without trial, illegal burials, torture?

[Chadwick] This is why I mentioned two different situations. The human rights violations took place mainly under certain historical circumstances immediately after 11 September 1973, when the climate was one of internal strife in the country, owing to the existence of a people's armed forces, the use of violence... It was very unrealistic to demand different behavior.

[Correa] Your party was against the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which arose as a moderate approach to the issue...

[Chadwick] First of all, I think that it is impossible to prevent the truth from coming out. It is too strong. It is a mistake to try and prevent it from being known. The important thing is to proceed on the basis of that truth. The major effort that we have to make is to seek a path that will allow us to have true reconciliation.

[Correa] That is easy to say, but what path is that?

[Chadwick] It is a lot easier said than done, but it has to be done. At first we were critical of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission because we saw the danger that its efforts could exacerbate hatred, ill will, and vengeance. Given the way that the commission has operated so far, this danger has been minimized. To the extent that the final report is drafted with the necessary prudence, as it has conducted its work so far, I think that it will be a major contribution.

[Correa] What do you mean by "the necessary prudence"?

[Chadwick] Not taking the path of shrill sensationalism that could generate hatred instead of reconciliation. Moreover, I think that retaining the 1978 Amnesty Law, combined with the so-called "framework accord," could create a legal framework that will enable us to make headway on the basis of the truth towards reconciliation.

The "Framework Disaccord"

[Correa] But most of the Coalition's lawmakers voted against the "framework accord."

[Chadwick] But not because they disagreed with its content. All of the Coalition's deputies, except Mr. Andres Aylwin, stated in the Legislation, Constitution, and Justice Committee that they agreed with the purpose and content of the "framework accord."

[Correa] How do you explain their no vote then?

[Chadwick] I believe that they voted against it because of something they have called "political timing..." I think that they lacked the will, the resolve, and the courage to vote their conscience.

[Correa] According to its detractors, the "accord" practically called for a new amnesty...

[Chadwick] Of course. The officers of Christian Democracy accepted and thought highly of the "framework accord," but the Socialists' officers rejected it when the skeletons were found in Pisagua. And I think they rejected it not because it provided for a sort of impunity or another amnesty, but because of an emotional reaction. I realize that this was too strong and shocking for the Socialists to support the "accord." It was very hard on them. But a problem like this demands that we be able to overcome such emotions.

Moreover, if this accord had had stronger support from the administration and in particular if the president of the republic had not delegated the accord to the party officers and instead had played a more active role, I think that the accord would have passed.

[Correa] Are you saying that Aylwin shirked his responsibility?

[Chadwick] I think that President Aylwin declined to assume responsibility on his own and instead delegated it to the officers of the political parties and held on to one forum, the Senate, in which it could be passed. This is the only explanation of why it was defeated in the Chamber, when everyone said they agreed. An issue as momentous as this has to be taken up right away and concluded as soon as possible.

[Correa] This sort of approach means that the perpetrators of such crimes will go unpunished.

[Chadwick] But under the accord the penalty for all crimes committed up to 11 March 1990 would be reduced by two degrees, with common crimes, for example aggravated homicide, excluded from this benefit. And the crimes for which the sentence would not exceed 61 days after being reduced by two degrees would be amnistied. This means that all crimes resulting in death would be investigated, but not crimes resulting in injury.

Investigation and Prosecution

[Correa] The Coalition has argued that the penalties for terrorist crimes are very stiff in comparison to those for combating subversion.

[Chadwick] That is unquestionably true.

[Correa] Do you think it is fair for someone carrying a weapon to receive a stiffer penalty than someone who practices torture?

[Chadwick] If we are going to be forever comparing what may be fairer for one group or another, we will never find a solution to the problems of the past. What we have to seek are points that will enable us to achieve a maximum consensus, and this had been accomplished through the "framework accord," harmonizing truth, justice, and reconciliation.

[Correa] What way out do you see now?

[Chadwick] In the Chamber of Deputies we have kept pushing the "framework accord," and we hope that our senators will keep pushing it too.

[Correa] In other words, you agree with giving amnesty to perpetrators of human rights violations?

[Chadwick] The fact is that it would benefit everyone.

[Correa] Everyone equally? A person who has been in jail for 10 years and someone who abused his authority and has been a free man for the same 10 years...

[Chadwick] Unquestionably. Perhaps the greatest benefit for someone who has been in prison for five or six years under the Antiterrorist Law is that he will go free, and the biggest benefit for the other person is perhaps that he will not be tried for that crime. This may seem unfair, but deep down it is fair for both and, above all, it is necessary for national reconciliation.

[Correa] When you speak of truth and justice, don't you feel that we at least ought to find out who gave the order for an illegal execution?

[Chadwick] Certain crimes are included in the "framework accord." And crimes resulting in death are subject to investigation, prosecution, and punishment.

[Correa] What happens to the person who gave the order to kill?

[Chadwick] The date and nature of the crime must be established in order to determine whether it is subject to the 1978 amnesty law, about which there is no debate. If the framework accord is passed, we will have to see whether they are subject to it. If the crime was committed after 1978 and if the framework accord is passed, then we have to determine the nature of and punishment for the crime to decide whether to investigate it. In any event the courts will have to pass judgment.

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Explains Foreign Policy

PY1309024090 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 12 Sep 90 p 11

[Text] Paraguay will make Austria a spearhead in promoting its trade in East European countries. This is what Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken explained about the government's foreign policy to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday.

Frutos said that Paraguay's political opening was simultaneous with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the liberation of East European countries. Frutos stated: "This, of course, compelled us to restructure our foreign policy." He added that it is the government's intention to establish trade relations with these countries, and for this purpose, it is studying the eventual opening of a "pro-Paraguay" trade office. He said this "pro-Paraguay" trade office will be made up of representatives from the Paraguayan Industrial Union [UIP], and the Production, Industry, and Commerce Federation (Feprinco).

The foreign minister reported that the Foreign Ministry has already requested authorization to open an embassy in Austria. He added: "Through it, we intend to expand to East European countries, which I believe need to import meat, soybeans, and agricultural products. This means they are potential buyers."

During the meeting that was also attended by members of other legislative committees such as the Constitutional Affairs Committee and the Finance Committee, Frutos Vaesken also discussed the waterway project that is a joint undertaking among Paraguay, Brazil, Bolivia, Uruguay, and Argentina. He added that this project is

aimed at building a transportation system for agricultural and livestock products.

The foreign minister reported that the initial cost of this project totals $200 million, and for the time being, there is not yet a definition of how the project will be managed or who will manage it. Frutos said there are two ideas in this regard: establishment of a multinational organization or letting each country assume their proper responsibilities.

Appointments at Foreign Ministry Reported

PY1209175890 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 11 Sep 90 p 6

[Summary] Through a resolution issued yesterday, Oscar Cabello Sarubbi was appointed foreign minister under secretary. The post of Foreign Ministry director that has been vacated by Cabello Sarubbi will be filled by Manuel Maria Caceres Cardozo, who holds a masters degree on international law from Harvard University, United States of America.

Peru

Fujimori Receives PRC Foreign Minister

PY1209125690 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori today received PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen at Government House. They discussed subjects related to cooperation in medicine, investments, urban transport, irrigation wells, and agriculture. They also agreed on aid amounting to $6.5 million from the PRC to help small- and medium-size industries, and $600,000 for areas affected by drought.

Also present at the meeting was Peruvian Foreign Minister Luis Marchand.

The PRC foreign minister arrived at Government House in the company of high-ranking PRC officials who were received by President Alberto Fujimori. They posed for pictures for the Peruvian and PRC press before holding a private meeting during which they discussed bilateral matters.

[Begin recording [Qian Qichen] [Passage indistinct].

[Marchand] The PRC foreign minister has come to Peru to greet the Peruvian president and to offer his country's cooperation in different projects that could be of interest to President Fujimori's government. Fujimori and Qian Qichen discussed several cooperation possibilities, including the field of medicines. They also discussed investment projects based on lines of credit, especially in the important urban transport sector. The possibility of importing PRC buses was discussed, as was the idea of drilling irrigation wells, as initiated by the PRC in Puno. This project will continue until all the irrigation wells in that area are complete. They also discussed the possibility of cooperation in the agricultural sector, not only through technical assistance but also through financial support.

Qian Qichen discussed with the Peruvian president the possibility of growing blackberries to feed silkworms in an effort to create a silk industry. This, by the way, could possibly replace the coca crops and is a very interesting project in which the PRC has great experience.

[Reporter] What are the priorities regarding these projects?

[Marchand] I think the most immediate projects include medicines, urban transport, and the drilling of irrigation wells.

[Reporter] In the case of medicines, what assistance will be granted by the PRC?

[Marchand] This is exactly what we are studying; to see how can they contribute and with what financial support, or with what technological contribution. Another important point is that a line of credit has been established, the documents for which will be signed tomorrow. This line of credit has been estimated at $6.5 million for small- and medium-size industries. Moreover, the PRC has donated products worth some $600,000 to help solve drought-related problems. [end recording]

PRC Foreign Minister on Gulf Issue

PY1309030690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2152 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Lima, 12 Sep (EFE)—PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said here today that the PRC, showing respect for Kuwait's sovereignty and free determination, has demanded the Iraqi withdrawal from that independent territory.

In a news conference, Qian added: "China advocates a peaceful rather than a military solution to the conflict because Iraq cannot establish conditions after having invaded a sovereign country."

The PRC foreign minister will end his official visit to Peru tomorrow, 13 September. Continuing his official Latin America tour, he will go to Bolivia, Colombia, and Venezuela, which—along with Peru—are signatories of the subregional agreement known as the Andean Pact.

The PRC minister said: "Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait; it must respect Kuwaiti sovereignty and independence."

Qian characterized Chinese relations with the United States and the Soviet Union as marked by "mutual respect." He added that his country practices a policy of "independence and peace," without forming "alliances with any power."

Qian added that the PRC is a Third World country, and it "supports all Third World countries."

Qian noted that last year's political events in his country had "cast shadows" somewhat on PRC relations with the United States, which exerted "pressure, and we were even sanctioned."

The PRC foreign minister added: "Our relations are, however, much better now." He blamed a sector of the Western press for disseminating "baseless, distorted" reports on the rebellion.

He added: "The Western press report that 5,000 people died (during the rebellion) is not true. Only 300 people who clashed with the Army died, and among them there were 10 or 20 students."

Qian noted that this figure is much lower than the death toll for the U.S. invasion of Panama (on 20 December 1989).

Today Qian and his Peruvian counterpart, Luis Marchand, signed a number of mutual cooperation agreements whereby the PRC commits itself to grant loans for the implementation of some Peruvian projects in the areas of agriculture, industry, and culture.

The PRC has granted Peru a $7 million loan under unspecified payment terms.

Prime Minister Hurtado Leaves for Argentina

PY1209124890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister and Economy Minister Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller left for Buenos Aires on an official mission early this morning. He was accompanied by Vice Economy Minister Gustavo Gonzalez Prieto.

Hurtado Miller will meet with Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem and with Economy Minister Erman Gonzalez. Peru has requested financial support from Argentina for the social emergency program.

Bank Employees, Police Clash; Arrests in Lima

PY1209184490 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1146 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Lima, 12 Sep (REUTER)—Fifteen people were arrested during street clashes between the police and bank workers who yesterday started an indefinite strike to protest the harsh government anti-inflation program.

According to the police, members of the Bank Federation Employees (FEB) association were dispersed by police who used tear gas to control a demonstration in downtown Lima.

Financial operations were restricted after the FEB, which has 35,000 members nationwide, began their strike seeking a salary increase.

Four weeks ago, the government headed by Alberto Fujimori issued a harsh economic package to halt inflation. The package included a 3,000-percent increase in fuel prices. However, economists have reported that recession, poverty, and unemployment have increased.

FEB Under Secretary Marco Diaz Chavez said that based on official economic indicators, bank employees are demanding a salary increase of at least 200 percent to be able to pay the family basket.

The bank employees' strike is being held simultaneously with a nationwide strike by over 1,800 oil workers that started on 10 September. The oil workers are demanding the repeal of a decree that suspends their collective labor bargaining agreements.

Over 3,000 workers from the National Urban Transport Enterprise of Peru, Inc. (Enatru), which represents 20 percent of the passenger service, agreed to hold temporary stoppages as of 14 September.

Moreover, union leaders from the largest state mining consortium, Centromin Peru [Central Peru Mining Corporation], have announced the holding of a 72-hour strike as of 17 September to demand better salaries.

Centromin Peru is the largest producer of zinc, lead and silver, and it is the third-largest Peruvian cooper producer. The mining sector produces almost half of all Peruvian exports.

Government Reduces Prices on Oil By-Products

PY1309022090 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 30 Aug 90 p 9

[Summary] On 29 August, 20 days after raising the prices of oil by-products, the government in August reduced the prices of kerosene, some diesel fuel oil categories, and some residual fuel oil categories.

The price of a gallon of kerosene was lowered from 574,560 to 434,060 intis; a gallon of diesel fuel oil one, from 574,560 to 434,060 intis; a gallon of diesel fuel oil two, from 543,240 to 444,240 intis; a gallon of residual fuel oil 4, from 526,500 to 439,000 intis; a gallon of residual fuel oil 5, from 465,750 to 388,000 intis; a gallon of residual fuel oil 6, from 384,750 to 321,000 intis; and a gallon of high viscosity residual fuel oil, from 364,500 to 304,000 intis.

These new, lower prices are to be charged at the Petroperu [State Petroleum Agency] distribution plants in El Callao, Conchan, Talara, Piura, Eten, Salaverry, Chimbote, Supe, Cerro de Pasco, Ica, Mollendo, Ilo, Juliaca, Cusco, Iquitos, Tarapoto, Yurimaguas, and Pucallpa.

Guyana

Opposition Holds Demonstration for Reform

FL1209214590 Bridgetown CANA in English 2132 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept 12, CANA—More than 100 opposition activists and supporters mounted a one-hour demonstration here Wednesday to welcome a Commonwealth planning mission and to highlight their demands for electoral reforms. The demonstration was mounted by the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD), whose representatives are to meet Wednesday night with the planning mission headed by Deputy Commonwealth Secretary-General (political) Sir Anthony Siaguru.

The demonstrators outside the Pegasus Hotel where the planning mission is based carried placards outlining the opposition's demands for electoral changes such as the counting of votes at the place of poll, the reconstituting of the elections commission and a new approach to the compiling of the voters' lists. They also called for more than 2,000 overseas observers to monitor the elections constitutionally due by March 31 next year and for the military to remain in barrack on polling day.

The parties which participated in the demonstration were the People's Progressive Party (PPP), the Working People's Alliance (WPA) and the Democratic Labour Movement (DLM).